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25 APRIL 1988



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Near East & South Asia

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

'Arafat Views Uprising, Gulf War, Syria
44040157a London AL-DUSTUR 4 Apr 88 pp 11-13

[Interview with Palestine National Council Chief Yasir 'Arafat by Khaldun al-Sham'ah and al-Salami Husni; date and place not given]

[Text] It is not possible to talk with Abu 'Ammar before midnight. During the hours we spent talking with the head of the Liberation Organization in one of his offices in the Tunisian capital, the Palestinian leader was engrossed in monitoring the latest reports from the occupied territories, setting out his latest special observations on the phrasing of an appeal directed to Iran and reading "telexes" related to news bearing on Shultz' initiative. The atmosphere was electrified and riddled with the voices of advisors and an incessant ringing of a telephone. We discovered at a late hour that Abu 'Ammar, the proficient commander whose men faced a the Palestine Liberation Organization's stand on the American initiative? Do you reject it in full?

Yasir 'Arafat: First of all, has this initiative been presented to us?

AL-DUSTUR: It has been presented indirectly.

Yasir 'Arafat: No, it has not been presented to us directly or indirectly. This is the basic weak point as far as this initiative goes. While Shultz has claimed that this initiative was aimed at a resolution to the Middle East problem (and the central cause in the Middle East issue is the Palestine cause), and while Shultz has been avoiding the Palestinians and their central cause and their rights, which the forces of international law have endorsed, what is this initiative or this movement based on? Shamir has said "When we failed to contain the uprising, Shultz came to save us from this imbroglio." Shultz announced four "nos": no to self-determination for the Palestinian people, no to the independent Palestinian state, no to an independent Palestinian delegation and no to an effective international conference. What does Shultz want to offer? He says—and this is from his statements, because he has not presented anything to us—a tentative preparatory administration for a period of a year, that is, till next February, and a transitional period after that for a period of 3 years, then there will be a civil administration for the Palestinians. In the course of this period, agreement will be reached. What will the future of the territories and the future of the Palestinian people consist of? During this period Shultz wants the participation of an Arab force as a police with an Arab security force and the forces of the Israeli army, which will withdraw from centers of population concentration. Shultz has used the expression "will distance themselves" from centers of population concentration to military areas alongside them. The Arab security forces will help control the Palestinians. Thus, as Shamir said, "When we failed to achieve control, Shultz came to save

us." Consequently, Shultz' movement arose in order to save Israel and throttle and control the uprising. We are raising this issue before the Arab nation. Fortunately, agreement has now been officially reached to call for an Arab summit conference.

AL-DUSTUR: Has a date been set for the summit?

Yasir 'Arafat: The Arab League has officially distributed the Algerian president's appeal for the holding of an Arab summit and we are now waiting for the date to be set. So far six Arab countries have agreed to hold the Arab summit. This summit will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, because the kingdom has the right to have this summit held on its territory, or in the country of the headquarters. The Arab nation must give an answer: will it assent to having the Palestinians face a fate worse than that of the blacks in South Africa? We have been presented with something worse than Camp David, because Camp David says 5 years as a transitional period, then after that self-determination. What Shultz is presenting is joint rule. I want to ask the Arab nation: Who is the Arab who will take part with Israel in ruling the Palestinians and in repressing and dominating them?

AL-DUSTUR: Some British sources have mentioned that there has been indirect contact with some Palestinians like Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughod. Do you know about this?

Yasir 'Arafat: What happened is the following: Shultz wanted to meet some Palestinians. He imagined "everyone is negligent." We are an organized people with a leadership and national goals. When Shultz, "on a whim," requested 15 Palestinian figures to meet him, they all told him "Go to the Liberation Organization, which is our political address." We in the Liberation Organization said that we are prepared to meet Shultz and we said in our statement, as is our custom, that our delegation would include our brothers on the inside and from abroad. Some names from abroad were mentioned, among them Edward Said and Abu Lughod. Of course we already know the prohibition Kissinger postulated, to which Reagan gave agreement. They are persecuting us not just by closing our office in Washington, although they deceived the Arab representatives when they told them "We will close the Washington office but the New York office will remain open." They are now pressing us to close our office in the United Nations. This case has now officially been transferred to the International Court of Justice, because they are continuing to persecute us, and the American administration is "giving itself full sway" and pressing on with its decision to close our office in the United Nations this 21 March. The world replied to this decision by 143 votes to one, Israel's vote. The United States of America abstained from voting. This matter does not just threaten the Liberation Organization, because any country, if it merely differs with America, now risks being treated in the same way the Palestine Liberation Organization has been treated.

This decision was not just directed against us but is directed against the forces of international legitimacy and the agreements America has signed as a great power. When they talk to me about the American initiative and the American initiatives, I ask, and I say this to all America's friends in the region: How will America, which does not honor its signature with the United Nations and on the United Nations charter, be faithful to the peace process?

AL-DUSTUR: Isn't what is sought the liquidation of the Liberation Organization?

Yasir 'Arafat: One day Reagan and Begin decided to liquidate the Liberation Organization and crush its infrastructure, in 1982. What happened? The longest Arab-Israeli war took place and the most successful war of attrition took place in southern Lebanon. It is still going on and we are carrying it out against Israel with our Lebanese allies—this by the admission of the Israeli commanders who asked us for a cease fire last summer. The war is still going on. The Palestine Liberation Organization is not a philanthropic society which can be shut down by a decision on Reagan's part.

AL-DUSTUR: Haven't some Arab rulers contributed to attempts to liquidate the organization?

Yasir 'Arafat: Of course. They are implicated in this. However, the Arab nation, the Arab conscience and Arab awareness are on our side, and that is what is most important. Therefore we say that it is easy for them to repress us for a while but it will be difficult for them to defeat us. The Arab conscience is on the side of this blessed uprising, which has been going on for more than 90 days.

AL-DUSTUR: The AMAL organization has lifted the siege of the camps and been replaced by Syrian forces. Is this insurance for the camps?

Yasir 'Arafat: The Syrian forces have now taken charge of the matter of security around the camps. We will settle for a halt to the shelling of the camps for now. In bad Arab times we have got to the point of considering a halt to the shelling an important step, because things are relative. God willing, this will be the beginning of a phase in the life of the camps, which have been subjected to the longest siege in the modern era. Leningrad was besieged for 890 days and that was not a total siege. It had an open area, which was the area of the lakes, and there was an open area in Stalingrad. The siege of the camps lasted 3 years, broken up by four massacres. It has not happened in history that an area has faced four massacres in 3 years: a massacre at Israeli hands and three massacres unfortunately at Arab hands. However, the camps held out and triumphed. Therefore, when a European correspondent asked me, a few days ago, "Will the uprising continue?" I told him, Do you know the area of the Sabra and Shatila camp? It is 30 meters by 400 meters, and it held out 3 years. By comparison, you can imagine how

much the West Bank and Gaza will hold out. We are prepared to continue the uprising wave by wave. This is what has happened. The important thing is that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the conscience and identity of the Palestinian people.

AL-DUSTUR: We have heard that you have directed an appeal to Iran.

Yasir 'Arafat: I directed an appeal to the Iranian leadership, the men in the community of religious scholarship in Iran and the Iranian people, telling them, "It is enough. Eight years. That is enough. The sole beneficiaries of this war are the enemies of the Arab nation and the Islamic nation. The prime beneficiary is Israel and the main loser, alongside the Iraqi and Iranian people, is the Palestinian people."

AL-DUSTUR: What about Iranian attempts to interfere in the uprising?

Yasir 'Arafat: This uprising is the uprising of the Palestinian people and there is no one besides these people. No one believes Khomeyni's doctrine. The Palestinian churches cancelled Christmas holidays for the sake of the uprising, in spite of the importance of the Christmas holidays to our Palestinian Christian brothers. Have these people taken Khomeyni's decision? We have 2 days in the week which are important, Friday, when the Christians wait for their brothers coming out of the mosques, and Sunday, when the Moslems wait for their Christian brothers coming out of the churches, so that a single Palestinian demonstration can set off the territories. All Palestinian forces are represented in the Liberation Organization by a resolution we adopted in Algeria.

AL-DUSTUR: Faruq Qaddumi said, in a press conference in Paris, that the plan for a temporary government has been postponed for reasons connected to legal and practical obstacles. What is new as far as the subject goes?

Yasir 'Arafat: No one can say anything with regard to the temporary government yet because the political committee and the legal committee have not submitted a final opinion. The central council meeting in Baghdad on 7 January 1988 transferred the issue to the political committee and the legal committee, and it is necessary that the matter be studied and that consultations take place.

AL-DUSTUR: Are there parties which have reservations on the subject or is it just a matter of a Palestinian decision?

Yasir 'Arafat: The decision is Palestinian, and it is a decision which the Palestinian leadership will take when it considers that it entails the interests of the Palestinian people.

AL-DUSTUR: Syria has declared conditional agreement to Shultz' initiative. Does that mean that it assents to Shultz' ignoring the Liberation Organization?

Yasir 'Arafat: I am giving you our position. As to the positions of others, everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

AL-DUSTUR: There is a slogan which talks about strategic balance with Israel. The uprising has come about, crushing this slogan with a stone, and it has proved that the stone of uprising can establish a strategic balance.

Yasir 'Arafat: When I was in Beirut in the siege of 1982, was there a strategic balance? In Sabra and Shatila, was there a strategic balance so that the camps could hold out for 3 years? To fight is a decision which is an obligation incumbent on every individual, not one that can be transferred to the group as a whole.

AL-DUSTUR: Are you satisfied with the Arab position in general?

Yasir 'Arafat: I say one thing: We realize that there are many very immense pressures on many of our Arab circumstances, and we take what every country can give us from that country. Thanks go to whoever gives us good words, whoever gives us supplies, thanks go to him, and thanks go to whoever participates with us in other areas as well. If the Arab situation had been good, we would not have needed the uprising and we would not have been besieged in Beirut.

AL-DUSTUR: What is the Palestinian evaluation of Palestinian-Syrian relations at present?

Yasir 'Arafat: There are Algerian efforts which began during the Arab summit in Amman during a short meeting which took place between me and President Chedli Bendjedid and President al-Asad. The results of these efforts included the declaration Nabih Birri made on lifting the siege of the camps. Before that, we had a resolution from the national council opening the line to Damascus. Another meeting also took place between al-Shar' and Ahmad Talib al-Ibrahimi and Faruq Qad-dumi. The matter requires followup and meetings. The matter rests with the Syrian party, because we ourselves have a resolution on the part of the national council on normalization; the Syrian party must decide whether it will restore relations with us or not.

AL-DUSTUR: There is a plan for a visit which Abu Iyad will make to Damascus.

Yasir 'Arafat: These are just journalistic predictions.

AL-DUSTUR: Shultz' initiative has been received by some Arab parties. Have you broached this subject with these parties?

Yasir 'Arafat: I have received nothing yet. All I have is what Shultz, Shamir and Peres are saying in the media. This proves that there is no seriousness to the matter or that there is a conspiracy. Shultz has presented the initiative of the main party involved, which is the Palestinian party. However, this main party does not know and has no knowledge of this initiative. That means either that the initiative is not serious or that it is a conspiracy.

AL-DUSTUR: Some press reports point out that the initiative includes the exchange of land for peace.

Yasir 'Arafat: What land? Nothing has been presented to us.

AL-DUSTUR: What is your opinion on whether there is coolness in the Soviet position toward the uprising and the peace process in general?

Yasir 'Arafat: This is not true. We are constantly receiving letters from the Soviet leaders and we are receiving Soviet officials.

AL-DUSTUR: Is it true that the uprising has confirmed that Palestinian nationalism prevails over the Arab dimension of the cause? Are you satisfied with the Arab position that falls short of Arab intervention?

Yasir 'Arafat: At no moment has the Arab dimension of the uprising been absent from our minds. We say that the uprising is Palestinian in face and Arab in heart, and that is not a slogan—it is reality. There is something else, which is that we have fought for our independence of decisionmaking. Independence of Palestinian decision-making is basic as far as we are concerned. If there are Arab countries which take positions which hold, Go with your lord and fight, we tell them, So be it, and we are continuing to fight. For example, Walters says that there is an American decision to put pressure on the Arab countries to dry up the Palestine Liberation Organization's financial sources.

AL-DUSTUR: Have the Arab countries carried out their financial obligations vis-a-vis the Liberation Organization?

Yasir 'Arafat: The only Arab country which is carrying out its stipulated financial obligation is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The rest stopped in 1983. For your information, we are spending from \$70 to \$78 million on our families and wounded people every year. That is just on wounded people and people killed in action. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—may God increase their good fortune—pay us \$85 million a year. Iraq, in spite of its current burdens, gave us \$41 million last year. A few days ago Iraq paid \$3 million for the uprising. Kuwait paid \$5 million for the uprising. North Yemen has paid \$2 million to the Palestinian universities.

AL-DUSTUR: Are the channels for financing the uprising regulated and answerable to you?

Yasir 'Arafat: We regulate these channels. Some Arabs have tried to intervene in our affairs and have sent some money to individuals on the inside. Of course the result was that an investigation was made into the people who received the money and the doors which we had opened years ago were closed. On this subject, we have made a decision on the mutual sponsorship of families: every family abroad will sponsor a family on the inside. However, in practice, it is every three families abroad that sponsor a family on the inside. That will guarantee the uprising a long life.

AL-DUSTUR: What about the ship of the return?

Yasir 'Arafat: It has just been delayed. The most important thing is that the ship is not a spontaneous operation, because the right of the return is a sacred right. Everyone is talking about the right of self-determination and no one is talking about the right of return. The operation of the ship has established the right of return, and we are seeking to say, through the operation of the ship of the return, that the right of return is no less sacred than the right of self-determination.

AL-DUSTUR: There is information which refers to the possibility that you may recall our brother al-Zawawi as your ambassador to Iran. Is that correct?

Yasir 'Arafat: It is possible; if the Iranians continue to harass him, we will recall him.

AL-DUSTUR: What is your position on joint representation as part of a joint delegation?

Yasir 'Arafat: Are we incapable? Are the Palestinian people incapable of having an independent delegation? We have the highest level of education in the Arab region. We do not need tutelage from anyone.

AL-DUSTUR: What is the nature of your relations with Tunisia and the new president?

Yasir 'Arafat: We hold thanks in our hearts to them for this warm embrace. Our brother President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali gives us much of his effort, as do the fraternal Tunisian people.

AL-DUSTUR: The Palestine Liberation Organization recently carried out a guerrilla operation against Israel's nuclear installations. What are the goals of this operation?

Yasir 'Arafat: I am amazed at the position of some papers which immediately condemned this operation, as if the operation was a civil one, directed against civilians. Is the Israeli nuclear scientist who admits that he is working in the Dimona reactor at the warhead center, which is the most dedicated nuclear center in the Middle

East, containing 35 to 40 nuclear warheads (Vanunu says that it is more than 100 warheads)—and this center threatens not just the Arab region, but world peace—is this nuclear scientist a civilian? What then is a military target? Is the vice chairman of the Israel warhead center a civilian? He is more than a military man, because he is a part of the military strategy. If this man is a civilian, why is Shamir visiting him? This operation caused terror within Israel, because the Palestinian got to the scientific enclosure and penetrated the security enclosure. Israel has a small airplane which connects Ben Gurion airport with Eilat. As soon as it deviated from its course, Israeli artillery brought it down. Moreover, the bus which the guerrillas had as their target was under intensified guard. Are civilian buses subjected to intensified guard? Reality states that this bus is carrying atomic experts. It is well known that Israel and South Africa are the only two places in the world which are not subject to investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency. More than that, I will tell you a secret: Rabin made a decision to hit the bus because if the guerrillas had got inside the nuclear center they could not have been removed had their demands not been answered.

Imagine what would happen if guerrillas got into the nuclear center. Therefore Rabin, the minister of defense, who supervised the operation of striking the bus and also Bar Lev, the minister of the police, Yitzhak Mordechai, the commander of the southern region, and Shamiron, the staff commander, made a decision to hit the bus. Would this bus, if it had been civilian, have required all these people? The fact is that the operation took place within the security enclosure. Our message, via this operation, is that we are telling the great powers negotiating for nuclear disarmament that Israel is a nuclear state and the message is also for the release of 9,000 Palestinian prisoners.

11887

EGYPT

Mubarak's Economic Views Said To Coincide With Islamic Theory

45040096 Cairo *AKHIR SA'AH* in Arabic
16 Mar 88 p 6

[Article by Hamid Sulayman]

[Text] The whirling dervishes of the left tried to exploit President Husni Mubarak's recent statements about the private and public sectors to the advantage of their narrow-minded parochial socialist view, just as the bigwigs of the right tried to exploit them to the advantage of their crumbling exploitative capitalistic view.

While the "dervishes of socialism" insist, in the inferences they drew from the president's words, that "the public sector is for the sake of the low-income people...and represents a safety valve and stability for every working person," the bigwigs of capitalism only remembered his statement, "I am proud to see the public sector grow at this rate."

Both sides ignored, in their private gatherings, his clear statement: "I am not inclined toward the right or toward the far left."

They also ignored his "middle-of-the-road" statement in which he said: "I encourage the public and private sectors because they work with Egyptian money on Egyptian soil. The state does not differentiate between them because the public sector has its role to play in maintaining the balance, and the private sector has its own premises and expansions to achieve comprehensive growth in the interest of the people and society as a whole."

Far from these rash interpretations of the president's statements, be they in favor of the dervishes' view or the bigwigs' view, I contend that recent proclamations about settling the storm that raged over the minister of tourism issue, was to the advantage of the Islamic economic view.

The Islamic economic view believes in the existence of a public sector alongside the private sector, provided that each has its own role and domain. True, the foundation of the Islamic economic system, "economic freedom," lies in the promotion of individual incentive, unconstrained human ambitions, personal initiative, and creativity and freedom of movement or man's acquisitive instinct.

In adopting the view of individual economic movement, however, Islam stipulated society's right to expropriate limited proportions of money earned from savings, trade, industry, and agriculture to distribute to low income people on the premise that money ultimately belongs to God.

At the same time, the Islamic economic system, besides according the private sector conditional freedom of action, believes in the need for a public sector, provided that its control over major activities (water resources, various kinds of energy, war and strategic industries, educational services, etc.) is left intact and not allowed to fall victim to the folly of certain individual ambitions, as evidenced by the Prophet's tradition that says: "you are all partners in three things: water, pasture, and fire." It is incumbent on each society to define these major activities the government manages in its behalf to protect the low-income people. And whereas "water, pasture, and fire" were the three strategic materials that existed during the Prophet's society, contemporary society must define the strategic areas appropriate to our times.

And while Islam encourages one to work and build the universe ("if the time came and one of you is holding a seedling, let him plant it and he shall be rewarded,"), and to determine one's absolute freedom in economic movement ("So traverse ye through its [the Earth's] tracts and enjoy of the sustenance which he furnishes" [Qur'an 67:15]), it gives the state the right to intervene to direct the economy should an imbalance occur in the distribution of wealth between the rich and the poor. "When Muslims are in need," says the Prophet, "money shall not belong to anyone." In other words, the ruler has the right to direct the entire economy to restore this balance among the classes, be it through the public or private sector.

I do not know the difference between Islamic principles and President Husni Mubarak's statement that "both sectors must employ the social interest for the benefit of the balance, the security and the stability of society as a whole."

The state encourages each sector in its appropriate field. No sector must be allowed to dominate the other at the expense of Egypt's higher interest, and neither should it be allowed to keep on sustaining a loss in favor of exploitative profiteering groups, especially since everyone knows that those who raise their voice with slogans advocating the survival of one sector or the other are motivated only by hidden and lavish gains at the expense of the people's wealth. The following two examples will suffice this time without going into details:

In one of the discussions about the national university in the People's Assembly, we perceived the "martyrdom" position that opposes building this university and noticed that the debate donned the garb of socialism and defense of the poor people. It was by sheer coincidence that I discovered that the reason some people played the martyrs during the parliamentary battle against the national university was not because they were concerned about the poor people or worried about socialism, but rather concerned about old "interests and connections" with the University of Beirut (Alexandria campus). Building a national university will mean the total destruction of the University of Beirut, notwithstanding the fact that the latter is a private sector enterprise exploited in favor of a foreign society whose students and teachers are Egyptian, and the money goes to a "Lebanese investor" who was recently given the chance by the whirling dervishes of socialism to acquire a piece of Egyptian land behind the University of Alexandria in contravention of all laws so that he and the socialist dervishes might make a profit. The dean of Alexandria University recently became aware of this conspiracy, but the building is still in progress...and to hell with public interest.

At the Heliopolis Club, the opposite occurred. One of the open door policy bigwigs wanted to exploit the club for his own contacts and his open capitalist activities. He

took advantage of his partisan connections to recommend to the governor of Cairo and the president of the Supreme Youth and Athletics Council to dissolve the club's board, which is run by an elected elite group of university professors and judges, on the pretext of "imaginary transgressions" that were proven false by the courts. When the governor of Cairo met with the members of the club's board of directors and discovered the bigwigs' ruse at the club, he reinstated the old board. The only thing left now is to convince Dr 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din of the falsity of the charges brought against the club that have disappeared behind claims of revitalization plans, which are nothing but projects aimed at investing the club's money to realize personal opendoor policy ambitions through spurious national and partisan claims.

12502

Columnist Criticises Timing of Egypt's Revolution Case

45040079 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
27 Feb 88 pp 26-29

[Text] There are three scenes to this very tragic play, to which we propose the title "Who Gets Khalid's Head First?" "Khalid" is Engineer Dr Khalid, the son of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. The question has to be asked because the entire operation has a current objective, namely Khalid's head; a legal objective, namely to bring to account an organization characterized by the Egyptian press as a "terrorist" organization; and a political objective, namely to deal the Nasserist tendency in Egypt a final blow.

The first scene took place in Cairo—to be specific, at the office of Attorney General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Jundi who, according to the Egyptian government press, had decided to announce the indictment against the "terrorist" organization at an international press conference. Nearly 1,000 journalists went to the conference, because the matter concerned a case that will be the most important political case in Egypt at the end of this century. But upon their arrival, some of the journalists discovered that a statement containing the text of the indictment would be distributed to them.

The attorney general's press conference was held in the third week of February 1988, even though the organization was arrested in the second week of September 1987. This means that the interrogations and the search for a time to announce the case—a proper political timing—took nearly 6 full months.

The second scene took place in Alexandria, Egypt's second capital, when Frank Wisner, the American ambassador in Cairo, went there to visit the city's port and the Egyptian naval forces. After the visit, he too held an international press conference, in which he announced that the American and Egyptian naval forces had cooperated to develop the Egyptian naval forces and

to restore a number of Alexandria's piers to enable them to receive and service aircraft carriers and big warships. The ambassador said: "The United States works hard to enable Egypt to have a strong army." Throughout the visit, tour, and statements, the ambassador was in fact trying to say, "We are here." As for the Alexandria conference, it tried to upstage the Cairo conference, even though the ambassador did not utter a single word about Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir or the Egypt's Revolution Organization.

The third scene took place in Yugoslavia, where [POLITICA] published a report which said, verbatim: "Yugoslav security sources have exposed a scheme planned by the Israeli intelligence to assassinate Khalid Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir who currently lives in Yugoslavia."

In detail, the report said that the Yugoslav police had arrested three foreigners planning to assassinate Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir, that they were interrogating the team, which included an Israeli and two Americans, that the three men had entered as tourists and then engaged in acts which proved decisively that their first and foremost target was Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir.

So there are three parties involved. The first is Egypt, which brandishes the weapon of supremacy of the law whose first seed was planted by Anwar al-Sadat. Al-Sadat has gone but the seed has grown, flourished, and turned into a complete system. The two other parties are the United States and Israel. These two are presumed to be a single party using the same weapon, namely the weapon of political assassination. Israel says that it is the oasis of democratic stability in the Middle East, whereas the United States sees itself as advocating human rights, regardless of the circumstances.

From these scenes in the prelude, we get to the first question: Why has the indictment been announced at this time? This question gains its main legitimacy from the fact that the case began 6 months ago, and the investigations and interrogations were completed some-time ago and are now fully known. The timing for the announcement on the case was highly political. Consequently, one is entitled to ask: Why now?

One presumes that the general, special, internal, Arab, and international developments would have delayed the announcement on the case for a time. At the Palestinian level, the occupied territories' uprising is the first and last word in any meaningful phrase uttered about the Palestinian issue. The uprising has brought the issue to the ordinary man himself. Is it reasonable to mobilize the Egyptian media to talk about an organization whose sole objective is to pursue the Israelis and Americans in Egypt? All the Zionist enemy's atrocities in the occupied territories which this uprising has exposed make whoever pursues the Israelis and the Americans a national hero.

At the Arab level, Egypt has been returning to the Arabs—or the Arabs have been returning to Egypt—and the two sides have been trying to dress the wounds of the past. The first step to dress these wounds consists of the impossible attempt, namely trying to turn over the leaf of the hateful past. The main words in this past have been and continue to be the words "Camp David."

After this return for which Egypt has worked several years, is it reasonable that the main event would consist of the arrest of an organization pursuing the Israelis, of announcing the case in a melodramatic manner and then launching a western-style propaganda campaign spearheaded by Egypt's AL-MUSAWWAR, which was imagined in a past period to be the sole government publication close to the Egyptian opposition factions? AL-JUMHURIYAH then moves to take part in the campaign, despite the convictions of its current chief editor, and is then followed by AL-AKHBAR and to a lesser degree by AL-AHRAM. But what is tragic is that an opposition paper, namely AL-WAFD, has vied with the government press in this defamation campaign. If AL-WAFD is settling some of the old accounts, then it is also handing the government the weapon with which the Wafd Party itself will be struck in the future. AL-WAFD was supposed to take a position contrasting with the position of the government it opposes.

At the international level, President Husni Mubarak has just returned from his American-European tour. Without dwelling on the minor details, this tour has confirmed that another way must be found now that the United States has revealed its true character, and now that it has been proven by evidence that the American-European disagreement is nothing but an illusion. Is it reasonable to devote all this attention to an issue that ultimately serves nothing but the strategy of the tripartite alliance that has existed in Egypt since the conclusion of the Camp David agreement, namely al-Sadat's men, America's men and Israel's men in Egypt? This trio's position toward President Mubarak's policies is well known and needs no clarification.

Regarding relations with the Israeli enemy, has Israel given Egypt anything that merits this major sacrifice on Egypt's part—a sacrifice in which 20 Egyptians stand charged with assassinating Israelis and attempting to assassinate Americans?

The question needs no answer. Despite al-Sadat's "wholesale" concessions for peace, Israel is and will continue to be the number one enemy of all Egyptian dreams for a better future. The Taba issue is still alive in our mind. While an international commission visits Taba to demark the borders, Israel declares that if the commission makes a decision against it on this issue, then there must be a way to overcome such a decision.

Internally, a case of Israeli espionage against Egypt is pending. This case is not the first since the impossible peace, and it will not be the last. Three defendants are

accused in this case. Yet, the case has never been publicized. The report leaked about the case prior to President Mubarak's Arab tour was aimed primarily against this tour. Serious as this case may be—considering that it is reported in Egypt that the spies involved staged some explosions and that they were the men behind the operation against the chemicals plant, meaning that they pose a threat primarily to Egypt's national security—it has been shelved, whereas the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization has been publicized, even though this organization has declared that it will never direct its blows against any Egyptian or Arab, regardless of the circumstances. Some of the organization members considered taking action against Anis Mansur when he was publishing his book, "Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir,—the man slandered as we are slandered"—in AKHBAR AL-YAWM. But the organization decided that Anis Mansur is, after all, an Egyptian and the organization has no feud with any Egyptian. What is more, when Makram Muhammad Ahmad, AL-MUSAWWAR's editor-in-chief, escaped the attempt on his life, the Egypt's Revolution Organization hastened to send him a bouquet of flowers and to congratulate him on surviving the assassination attempt, keeping in mind that Makram Muhammad Ahmad had led the first and most ferocious campaign against Nasirism and Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir on the pages of AL-MUSAWWAR.

After the questions come the facts.

We begin with the Egyptian attorney general's indictment, which names the following as defendants: Mahmud Nur-al-Din al-Sayyid; Khalid Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir; Ahmad 'Isam-al-Din 'Ali Sulayman, owner of the Arab Import-Export Company; Muhyi-al-Din 'Adli Rajab; Ahmad 'Ali Muhammad 'Ali, an ex-officer in the armed forces; Nazmi Husayn Sayyid Ahmad, alias Nazmi Shakin, a driver; Muhammad 'Ali Sharaf-al-Din, alias Hamadah, unemployed; Sami 'Abd-al-Fattah Turk, alias Sami Fishah, an electrician; Jamal 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahman, a supervisor at the Ala' Cement Block Plant; Hamid Muhammad Ibrahim Mustafa, an ex-officer of the armed forces; Usamah Ahmad Muhammad Khalil, an ex-staff sergeant in the air force; Mamduh 'Adli Muhammad Rajab, a merchant; Isma'il 'Abd-al-Mun'im Isma'il Mu'awwad, alias Isma'il al-Jizawi, a technical supervisor at the Ala' Cement Block Plant; Ahmad Ibrahim Ahmad Muhammad, an accountant and executive at the Portland Cement Company; Isma'il Jamal-al-Din al-Sayyid 'Azzam, owner and director of al-Nil Commercial Import-Export Office; Hamdi 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, a physician; Mukhtar 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad Yusuf, a physician; Jamal Shawqi 'Abd-al-Nasir (Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's nephew), a physician at the Arab Industrialization Authority (a fugitive); Sharif Husayn al-Shafi'i (the son of Husayn al-Shafi'i, one of the July revolution leaders), a physician; and Mahmud Muhammad Yusuf Jum'ah, a furniture merchant.

The Egyptian attorney general has demanded the death sentence for defendants one through eleven, and a life prison term for the other nine defendants. Insofar as the

defendants are concerned, the first defendant is an ex-administrative officer of the Egyptian Embassy in London, currently a businessman, and a chairman of the Board of Directors of the 23 YULIYU magazine during al-Sadat's administration. The second defendant is 'Abd-al-Nasir's eldest son who has a doctorate in engineering and is a professor at the 'Ayn Shams Engineering College. The defendants include two retired army officers who are no longer in the service, three physicians, and an accountant.

The indictment says that the public prosecution has charged defendants one through eleven with participating in a criminal offense instigated and managed by the first three defendants with the purpose of attacking a certain faction of the population, of committing murder, falsifying official documents, and staging acts hostile to foreign countries likely to cause severance of the Egyptian government's political relations with these countries. The first and second defendant agreed to form the gang with the aim of committing the aforementioned crimes. The first defendant agreed with the third defendant and other defendants to complete forming the gang and to implement its objectives. The following crimes were committed in implementation of the agreement:

First, the defendants formed a gang which was led by the first defendant, supplied with material and financial aid by the second defendant and commanded by the third defendant. The gang staged the following attacks against a group of foreigners residing in the country:

On 4 June 1984, the gang members staged a willful and premeditated attempt to assassinate Tzvi Qedar, an Israeli diplomat, in al-Ma'adi precinct of Cairo Governorate.

On 20 August 1985, they willfully and premeditatedly assassinated Albert Atraksh, an Israeli diplomat, in al-Ma'adi precinct of Cairo Governorate.

On 26 May 1987, they staged a willful and premeditated attempt to assassinate Daniel Williams (an American diplomat), John Hook, and John Ford in Misr al-Qadimah precinct of Cairo Governorate.

The prosecution also charges them with the possession of 6 defensive assault hand grenades along with their detonators, 2 submachine guns, 3 silencers, 16 pistols, and 6 automatic rifles to be used in acts detrimental to public security and order, and to stage acts of aggression against two foreign countries—acts likely to cause severance of the Egyptian government's political relations with these two countries. They assassinated and made attempts to assassinate a number of American and Israeli diplomats and citizens, thus exposing the political relations with these two countries to severance.

The fifth, tenth and 11th defendants, all of whom are subject to military rules, committed the abovementioned acts which were aimed at opposing the general domestic

and foreign policy adopted by the state. They committed the acts in agreement with defendants one through nine, with the exception of the fifth defendant.

Defendants one through nine, excluding the fifth defendant, participated in agreement with the abovementioned three military defendants and with their assistance.

The prosecution charges the fifth and tenth defendants, two public officials serving as officers of the armed forces, with revealing one of the country's defense secrets by supplying the first defendant with confidential information on the armed forces' weapons and equipment. No written permission from the Armed Forces General Command was given for the revelation or publication of this information.

The investigations have proven that four bullet-proof vests were seized with the organization. The forensic doctor's report confirms that these vests protect the chest and back from injuries. The weapons seized in the organization's possession have amounted to 16 pistols, 7 submachineguns, and 4,400 rounds of ammunition. Disguise materials, such as hair wigs, beards, head covers, and nail-polish removers were also seized. Moreover, a total of 40,517 pounds and \$8,400 were also seized. The first defendant has confessed that Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir supplied them with the money.

The prosecution investigations show that the defendants have confessed that they had carried out four armed operations, and that upon execution of the first operation, defendant number one wrote the first communique, phrased with the approval of the group, to be distributed to the news agencies.

The first defendant has confessed that he embraces the Nasserist ideology and that he had resigned his job as an official of the Egyptian Embassy in London and published a weekly which he called 23 YULIYU of which he issued 50 editions throughout one full year. The weekly was then suspended because of difficult financial circumstances.

The case papers, referred to the Higher State Security Prosecution, amount to nearly 8,000 pages. Several checks issued from Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir's account to Ahmad 'Isam, the third defendant and brother of the first defendant, have been seized. To be specific, these checks consist of a check for \$8,000, cashed on 13 May 1985; a check for 1,000 Egyptian pounds, cashed on 4 January 1987; and an \$20,000 check made out to the bearer, cashed on 30 June 1986. This check was used for the partial payment of the cost of three apartments which had been purchased by the defendant.

Printing instruments, including an Arabic typewriter and draft copies of all the communiqués sent by the defendants to the news agencies, were seized. Papers

with instructions on the use of weapons and a cassette tape containing the first chapter of Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's book, "The Green Book," were also seized.

So far, the case seems to be purely political. But what is surprising is that the prosecution interrogations, on whose basis the indictment was made, contain strange things. The interrogation papers say that a quantity of hashish and opium intended for the group members' use was seized, in addition to quantities of heroin for the use of 'Isam-al-Din, the third defendant and brother of the first defendant. As for cocaine, only the first defendant used it because of its high price.

Two women of ill-repute have also figured in the case, claiming that they lived in an apartment with the organization members and that they were kept under control through the use of heroin. The interrogations do not explain what important role the two women played in the organization activities. Such women usually figure in all cases of this sort.

It is well known that it is difficult, if not impossible, for heroin and cocaine users to plan such precise and efficient operations without leaving behind any trace whatsoever leading to them.

It is difficult for such people to aim accurately or to escape at the right time. It is also difficult for such drug users to carefully keep up with information concerning Israelis or Americans in Egypt.

The attorney general has also announced that he will charge the organization members with drug use in a separate case. He has further announced that he will ask Interpol to arrest Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir and bring him to Egypt immediately, and that the case will be presented to a special judiciary in the near future.

Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir had left Egypt for London at the beginning of last September and had stayed in London until scattered reports of the case began to surface. The British police then notified Khalid that it would be difficult for them to protect him from the Mosad and American intelligence men. Consequently, he decided to leave for Yugoslavia which he has decided to make his exile until the circumstances change at some unknown time. Dr Ashraf Marwan, 'Abd-al-Nasir's son in law, also felt that his family was in danger, and has moved his sons from London to Egyptian universities.

Before the case was announced, numerous endeavors had been made by a number of ex-politicians and some journalists, including Egyptian chief editors, had volunteered to persuade Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir to return to Egypt instead of staying in Yugoslavia. But Khalid's response was explicit. He announced that he would await declaration of the indictment and would then decide what to do in light of the indictment contents.

Last September, on 28 September specifically, the anniversary of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's death arrived at a time when news of the case had become well known in the Egyptian political and press circles. For the first time since he had assumed power, President Mubarak made a speech on the occasion of President 'Abd-al-Nasir's death anniversary.

President Mubarak also visited 'Abd-al-Nasir's tomb and met there with 'Abd-al-Nasir's family members, including Ashraf Marwan, his son-in-law. At that meeting, he stressed to the family the need for Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir's return to Egypt to appear before the prosecution and to give his testimony on the charges made against him.

The meeting took place on 28 September, whereas the organization members had been arrested on 17 September, i.e. 11 days before the meeting. It was said at the meeting that Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir had gone abroad for medical treatment. During Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir's stay in London, suspicious elements were watching Dr Ashraf Marwan's residence where Khalid was staying. The British police notified Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir that they were unable to protect him. Khalid contacted two Arab ambassadors in London to grant him political asylum in their countries, but received no response. He then contacted the Yugoslav ambassador in London, who asked Khalid to give him time to consult with his country's government. The ambassador then contacted Khalid to inform him that Belgrade had approved his request on condition that he abide by the law and refrain from engaging in any political activity or action likely to influence Yugoslav-Egyptian relations or Yugoslavia's relations with any other country.

Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir now lives on the second floor—not in a big palace, as some people in Cairo say to insinuate that he has a lot of money—of a special residence owned by the Yugoslav Government in Belgrade and located close to the Egyptian Embassy.

Egypt is now examining its files to find out if there is an extradition agreement with Yugoslavia so as to demand the extradition of Khalid or else have him arrested by Interpol.

What remains is the most interesting chapter of this tale, namely how the organization was arrested.

An Egyptian report says that the Egyptian security arrested the organization. Egyptian newspapers closely connected with the security authorities have leaked the details of this report which says that the first thread to the organization was discovered when some of the organization members took a Suzuki pickup truck for repairs at a garage they owned in Madinat Nasr; they stole the identity card of the mechanic who repaired the pickup truck halftruck and used this card to purchase a Fiat car.

After the car was purchased with this mechanic's identity card and used in one of the operations, the mechanic was identified and brought for interrogation. He said that he forgot the card in a Suzuki he had repaired and that the car was brought for repair by three persons, one of whom resembled actor Yahya al-Fakhrani and had the scar of an old wound on one of his hands. The report adds that this description was the beginning of the fall of Nazmi Husayn Sayyid Ahmad, who resembles al-Fakhrani and is cited by the indictment as the fifth defendant.

Consequently, the organization members were put under surveillance and their moves were recorded until they were arrested on 17 September 1987.

However, there is another, and more credible, story circulated in Cairo as to how this organization fell. This story says that 'Isam-al-Din had a disagreement with his brother Nur-al-Din, the organization leader, regarding financial backing and some female relations, that this disagreement developed to the point where Nur-al-Din shot his brother and Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir intervened to reconcile the two brothers. Upon recovering, 'Isam went immediately to the American Embassy in Cairo and stayed for 6 days at a secret place owned by this embassy. In those 6 days, 'Isam told the American Embassy security men and some of the embassy advisers who are former Egyptian security men everything about the organization, providing them with detailed confessions. The confessions, whether inside or outside Egypt, were recorded and videotaped. Meanwhile, the American Embassy was asking, purely for camouflage purposes, the Egyptian authorities what they were doing about the Egypt's Revolution Organization. In this extremely intricate and complex game, the Egyptian security authorities learned of what was happening between 'Isam-al-Din and the American Embassy and began to make preparations to arrest the organization. So the American Embassy tried to smuggle 'Isam-al-Din to the United States on a forged passport, of course.

There is another story that says that the American ambassador in Cairo requested an urgent meeting with the Egyptian political leadership and that he presented at this meeting all the details and documents he had in his possession on the issue.

In this context, it is circulated in Cairo that the attorney general utterly refused to receive the American Embassy interrogation papers and considered them to constitute intervention by a foreign embassy in matters that are of the crux of the Egyptian government's jurisdiction.

What is important is that the issue has entered the field of complex maneuvers and interesting adventures that are close to the sphere of the intelligence agencies' activities in general.

But the issue also constitutes a dilemma in which this Egyptian government has never wished to find itself. The Egyptian government's official position is one of trying

to overcome the dilemma with as little damage as possible. The dilemma is in the fact that 20 Egyptians stand accused of assassinating Israelis and Americans in Egypt. The experience of the Sulayman Khatir trial is perhaps still fresh in the government's mind. That case took all of Egypt by storm, and the entire situation almost exploded more than once.

Twenty Egyptians, including Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's son, now stand in the dock; and all this is happening in a climate of terrible economic inflation, a state of political and social frustration, and an atmosphere of extreme anxiety and anticipation.

The announcement on the case was preceded by a campaign of arrests which included Nasserist figures and in which the game of hostages was played for the first time in Egypt's history. The father of Egyptian struggler Kamal Abu-'Aytah, a man in his seventies, was kidnapped and kept until Kamal Abu-'Aytah surrendered to the police. The wife of Lawyer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid, a Nasserist, was also kidnapped and kept until Muhammad surrendered to the police. The attorney general has demanded the execution of 11 Egyptians charged with killing Israelis, whereas all the Egyptians are against any Israeli presence in Egypt. Moreover, the Egyptians are now reaping the fruits of the American era, namely inflation, frustration, and extreme despair. Besides, a court verdict sentencing Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir to death, should such a verdict, God forbid, be issued, will put Egypt face to face with conditions that are difficult to foretell.

What is worrisome in Egypt now is that all these sad details are revealed under the canopy of new and renewed talk about the "state's dignity" and about the need to preserve this dignity, regardless of the circumstances. Nearly all the Egyptian officials are now using this phrase.

The Egyptians are some of the wittiest people and are most capable of dealing with the unknown. I heard a man in the Egyptian street saying that the government may be considering raising the prices of some foodstuffs in the coming period, and that it has publicized this case so as to preoccupy the people for a period of time.

Another no less witty Egyptian told me that having opened the dossiers of 'Ismat al-Sadat, Anwar al-Sadat's brother, the dossier of a Nasserist case had to be opened in order to achieve a balance between the two.

But a third Egyptian really surpassed the first two when he told me that George Shultz is coming to the area and that he must be offered a gift, especially since his trip is significant and fateful, and there is no better gift than 'Abd-al-Nasir's firstborn son. Wasn't 'Abd-al-Nasir America's main enemy?

Egypt is approaching days whose form and content are unknown and which abound with all kinds of surprises.

Insofar as the Egyptian left itself is concerned, it can be said that one man's meat may be another man's poison. This divided leftist current has been seeking a symbol and here it is now finding an uncontroversial issue—an issue that could form an axis for a national consensus and popular support. What is more, Egyptian nationalists may use this issue as a basis for public action.

Some people may say that the case puts even greater distance between the Nasserists and the impossible dream of forming a party. But the case does push the Nasserists to the center of the real leadership of the masses.

From this angle, it can be said that the case can be considered a case of rehabilitation of Nasserism, of the Nasserists and of 'Abd-al-Nasir himself after years of constant attack.

As for the defamation campaigns, they are just minor details that do not survive long in history's mind and memory.

08494

Commentator Discusses Counteracting 'Zionist Lobby'

Alternatives Suggested

45040086 *Cario AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic*
12 Feb 88 p 6

[Article by Hasan Shukri, member of the Nasr Military Academy]

[Excerpts] We all must know the fact that Arabs are not like Israelis in their dealings with the United States. Arab national interests differ from American national interests, so we are called a nation seeking to develop its political, Islamic, and international role. Undoubtedly, this aim conflicts with the interests of the United States and Israel.

The most important and dangerous pressure groups are political pressure groups that are deep-rooted and have strong interests with the American administration, Congress (Capitol Hill), the Department of Defense (Pentagon), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and others. They also strongly influence the American news media and the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The "AIPAC" organization is considered the strongest and most dangerous political pressure group. It covers the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific through 200 national Jewish groups who can influence the American decisionmaking process. They even change American positions due to the electoral weight of the Zionist votes (4 percent) and the extent of labor organizations and its share in ownership and management of communication channels and financial organizations. This brings out the

role of Jewish businessmen in supporting Jewish or pro-Zionist candidates, and how the film industry and Hollywood stars work to collect money and get support for these candidates.

The AIPAC organization was registered in 1954 as a legal interest group (lobby) that had the right to defend the interests and aims of the American Jews. It also had the right to list its policies and goals in the political platforms of American parties. This group is the main Israeli voice in Congress and in Washington. This American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, known as AIPAC, is even more famous than the Congress. Its goals are in legislative action; however, it actually represents Israel's interests and is an extension of the Israeli government. This became clear in 1981 when AIPAC distributed an official announcement to members of Congress defending Israel's destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor 1 hour before the Israeli prime minister announced the same.

All major Jewish organizations publicly support Israel's political positions. For example, Thomas Dane, executive director of AIPAC, talked enthusiastically about Reagan's peace plan when it was announced in September 1982. But when Israel refused the plan, Dane fell silent. AIPAC maintains clear political policies and disciplined recruits, and is on the phone daily with the Israeli Embassy and the Mosad men in the United States. The AIPAC director meets at least once a week with the Israeli ambassador in Washington.

One can mention over 75 pro-Israeli organizations that follow a coordinated and harmonious scientific method to achieve one definite goal: namely, to influence American policy and decisions so as to serve Israel's interests.

If the Zionist lobby in the United States is able to influence American decisionmaking for its benefit, making the U.S. positions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and regarding solving the problem of the Palestinian people based on a comprehensive and just solution always partial to Israel, there are numerous factors that make the Arab nations' and the Palestinian people's negotiating positions with the United States strong, not forgetting that the United States is one of the greatest powers in the world. This position may continue for a while, and therefore it becomes important to realize certain aspects of Arab interests and to regain the Palestinian people's usurped rights.

We say that the most important factors in the Arab nations' stand toward the United States are:

—Emphasizing the existence of other alternatives in Europe and the USSR.

—Emphasizing the ability of Arab nations to influence American interests through various ways and means.

—Praising the ability of the Palestinian fighter—who is known for his readiness for martyrdom—to undertake suicide activities inside and outside the United States that could affect major interests and threaten the life of its leaders, making his Palestinian voice heard and respected. He can do more than the Mosad men or the Zionist lobby could do inside the United States and the decisionmaking agencies.

—Emphasizing the necessity of freeing bilateral relations from the Israeli factor.

—Emphasizing the ability of the Arab presence in the United States, if used properly, of influence the American decisionmaking process.

—Expediting the holding of an international peace conference to solve the whole problem, in the presence of all contesting parties and permanent member nations of the Security Council.

Since there are no essential differences in the way the American Democratic and Republican parties view the Arab-Israeli struggle, and in view of the effects these prevalent principles that are partial to Israel have on the personal opinions and beliefs of any American president, there is no point in postponing the issue until after the American elections. But the matter is in our hands, and we must take the initiative due to several factors and considerations, the most important of which are: the favorable current circumstances in the Arab world, the Palestinian popular revolution within the Occupied Territories and its insistence on continuing to bring about favorable changes to the American stand toward our shared problems with the Israeli enemy.

U.S.-Israeli Solution Discussed

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Feb 88 p 6

[Article by Hasan Shukri, member of the Nasr Military Academy]

[Excerpts] I am among those who have a big dream for the great Palestinian people. I am awaiting their return to all of Palestine, when the Palestinian flag rises over every inch of the pure Palestinian land. Therefore, we will not allow any force on earth to present the Palestinian as a poor refugee waiting in a long line with a metal dish in his hand. We will not let imperial horns and Zionist propaganda agencies once again dedicate pity to those miserable people, because this in itself is the ugliest and most dangerous means of psychological war that aims to destroy the Palestinian personality and the Palestinian entity.

In the past, when there were empires where the sun never set, the slogan "A land without a people for a people without a land" was prevalent. However, after we made empires live in the shade and the sun did not always shine on them, this slogan was no longer appropriate. Today, the new slogan we have to hold on to is "land for

peace". The Palestinian land exists, and the Palestinian people will remain on it until it sinks to the bottom of the sea. They will not remain silent, nor will they surrender or yield. They are the revolutionary, honest fighters on their own land today. They will always be heroes because this is their destiny. They are not terrorists, as the Zionist media agencies describe them to the free world that is controlled by Zionist-American lobbyists, who are now trying to fight the Palestinian people with words. These words have defended men like Begin, Allon, Lahis, Shamir, and Rabin. These agencies have often covered up operations to drive Palestinian away from the Occupied Territories, burying them alive, torturing them in Israeli prisons, and exploiting them in Israeli farms, factories, and basic construction projects.

The Zionist lobby was able to direct the American media and politics, and even pressured the American administration to believe the Israeli point of view, which claims that they are unable to yield the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights, or offer more concessions than they have so far without hurting their peace and future, considering the peace treaty they signed with Egypt as an individual treaty that does not include any real obligations or commitment to the second phase of the Camp David Agreement. In other words, the United States should not approve the agreement with Egypt as a formula that could be worked out with other sides, followed by more withdrawal procedures from the Occupied Territories, emphasizing the opposition to any American initiative that conflicts with the principles established at Camp David, and refusing the principle of land for peace, replacing it with the principle of peace for peace.

The political leadership in Egypt has tried several times to make Israel understand that its continued occupation of an Arab land, its refusal to attend an international peace conference to solve the Palestinian problem in its entirety, the occupation of South Lebanon, and the defeat and expulsion of Palestinians from their land are all clear violations of Camp David. But Israel does not want to comprehend these accepted facts; it wants all the current and future benefits without incurring any loss or sacrificing anything. It wants security for itself and terrorism and hostility for others. In brief, it wants to take everything and pay nothing. It wants both land and peace. It is the "lion's condition" that forms the Israeli personality and mentality in its dealings with Palestinians, a legally unacceptable condition, because it is based on deception. It is a legal principle that whatever is based on deception is void even if both parties accepted it, and it is also humanely, culturally, and morally unacceptable. This is because it only applies in the jungle where the lion eats his prey alive. There is no place for the law of the jungle in international relations. There is an international law that organizes and directs international organizations on the basis of justice, rights, and principles. Israel wants to respect neither international law and society, nor the United Nations' principles, but continues to challenge international laws.

The decisive and essential point is that when we calculate the overall power of Israel we must add American support, since that is the heart of calculating total Israeli power. Israel moves within this framework and acts as the representative of the United States. Obtaining the greatest possible amount of American political, economic, and military support for Israel was not Israel's basic and ultimate goal; rather it was to prevent the development of American policies in favor of the Arab nations and the Palestinian cause. This is what Israel has succeeded in achieving with regard to Arab-American relations.

Therefore, it is not strange that the American administration continues to adopt the Israeli stand toward Palestinians and the PLO. Egypt took great pains to push the Israelis toward moderation, and tried to build bridges of understanding between them and Jordan in order to prepare a moderate Arab position in the negotiations which would be acceptable to all sides. Egypt was hoping that the United States would cooperate with the Palestinians so that they would not lose hope and turn to disagreement within the various political factions, using violence to gain their stolen rights and usurped land.

No one can deny that the Palestinian position on the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict is moderate, wise, and responsible. Yasir 'Arafat declared that the PLO accepts all the United Nations' resolutions, including 242, accepting all international laws and United Nations resolutions provided that Israel accepts these resolutions. International law is an indivisible whole and is the basis by which all conflicting sides move within the framework of an international peace conference that aims to achieve total, lasting, and just peace.

Shamir, however, refused the whole idea of an international peace conference because he wants the lion's share so that he can get everything and others get nothing. In order to keep Israel satisfied, the American position has shifted in a way that shows they did not want the idea of an international peace conference to succeed. The American administration still has the old mentality that supports Israel's idea to impose self-rule on the densely populated regions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, provided that the Israeli army withdraws to strategic areas, while an Arab-non-Palestinian-police force remains there. This force would be from the countries that agreed to be incorporated into an Arab-Israeli condominium that would share positions. For example, safety, defense, and water would be under Israel's control while municipal and port affairs could be under the control of the autonomous administration. The United States is still working hard to have the PLO close down its New York office, a new case triggered by the American administration to keep Palestinian sidetracked from the major and urgent problem, which is returning to the Palestinian soil and securing all the Palestinian legal rights.

By such action, the United States aims to dissolve the Palestinian problem by separating Palestinians from their legitimate leadership, the PLO. By not recognizing the PLO as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people and by trying to close down their office despite knowing that the Palestinian people chose this organization and Yasir 'Arafat as the leader of the Palestinian journey and the Palestinian revolution that aims to return them to all Palestinian lands, the United States would be striking a blow to the Palestinian revolution, the people, and the leadership. It is making the most dangerous attempt to separate Palestinians from their national roots. Confronted with the Israeli-American solution, we should neither allow crucial matters of our nation to be a monopoly in the hands of the United States of America, nor leave them up to an individual's determination.

09455/06662

Commentator Fears Abuse of Democracy
45040092b Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
25 Mar 88 p 3

[AL-AHRAM Opinion Column]

[Text] Yes, we do enjoy a kind of freedom not enjoyed by other countries in the region, and ever since President Mubarak came to power, we have had a free press that can say whatever it pleases. Not a single newspaper has been confiscated or shut down once, whatever the magnitude of excesses and transgressions.

And yes, we do want more democracy, and we want the day to come as soon as possible when the emergency law and other similar laws will lose their *raison d'être*. But we must all heed the import of what President Mubarak had to say when he met with Tanta University students: that freedom did not mean that anarchy should prevail or that it be used against the state, because the underlying reason for another extension of the emergency law is to protect the people, and not an individual or ruler.

We must realize that democracy must rise above all attempts at exploitation and provocation and must be soundly employed as a means of intensifying and achieving the desired progress for the country and the citizens.

National security in any country in the world must not be realized at the expense of democracy, just as democracy must not be realized at the expense of the country and the citizens. Rather, balance and integration between security exigencies and the requirements of democracy must be maintained at all times.

We do not believe that anyone can dispute the fact that the kind of democracy we are now experiencing has become a living reality and a way of life. It is no longer an experience subject to the probabilities of survival or

abolition. From here stems the responsibility of all people, supporters and opponents alike, to work with sincerity, impartiality, and devotion to safeguard this democracy.

Let it be clear to us all that the umbrella of democracy protects us all, and should the violent winds of greed blow or should reckless thoughts dominate the minds, everyone will suffer and not a single supporter nor a single opponent will escape the patent harm.

We say, in conclusion, that if we really believed that democracy is the best means for achieving law and order for every citizen, we ought to understand that democracy is not only a required guarantee for individual freedom, but is also the only foundation for the government's legitimacy as well.

12502

**Opposition Leader Discusses Arab Summit,
Foreign, Domestic Affairs**

45040091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 Mar 88 p 23

[Interview with Ibrahim Shukri, head of Egyptian Labor Party, by Wahid Hilmi; in Cairo, date not specified]

[Excerpts] The text of the interview is as follows:

[Question] Several urgent issues present themselves. Let us begin with the Arab summit conference held recently in the Jordanian capital. What do you think about the results and resolutions that emerged from this conference?

[Answer] I think that the conference came out with several positive results, especially if we bear in mind the circumstances and intricacies surrounding its convening, both at the Arab and international levels. The conference was held in the shadow of a continuing Gulf War posing a direct threat to the security and stability of certain Arab countries in the Arab Gulf, Kuwait particularly, and it went into session amidst sharp differences among Arab countries—as between Syria and Iraq, for example—and disagreements over the agenda and Egypt's return to the Arab ranks. If we bear in mind these considerations and other complications in the Arab and international arenas, we can view the conference's results clearly. Accordingly, I would like to reiterate that the conference came out with several positive results, foremost of which were bringing the Arab points of view closer together, the agreement on the main outlines for cooperation in the next stage, and putting an end to Syrian-Iraqi disputes. Moreover, the conference led indirectly to the resumption of official diplomatic relations between Egypt and most Arab countries and succeeded in bringing Syrian and Iraqi viewpoints closer together. It may be worth calling attention to the effective role the Jordanian monarch, His Majesty King Husayn, played in making the conference a success.

[Question] Some believe that the conference failed to pass a resolution on Egypt's return to the Arab League? What do you think?

[Answer] As I said at the start, we must not view issues and matters in a superficial manner, but rather within the context of the complexities that exist. The matter of Egypt's return to the Arab fold was one of the most important topics presented to the conference. I believe that the conference's decision in this regard to leave the restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt to individual Arab governments, was a very positive decision acceptable to all sides, even those who still have reservations about resuming diplomatic relations with Egypt. I also believe that such a decision is the best the Arab summit could come out with at present, and that Egypt's return to the Arab League or the Arab League's return to Egypt will come in time, particularly since this issue is not free of additional complications pertaining to some Arab countries' persistent reservations about Egypt's return to the Arab fold and the question of where the Arab League should have its headquarters: should it return to Egypt or stay in Tunis? Let us hope that these complications can be resolved in the immediate future and that we can all strive toward this end with good intentions and sincere efforts so that Arab solidarity may be achieved in a manner satisfactory to Arab wishes.

[Question] Following the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and most Arab countries, and in the wake of President Mubarak's visit to the Arab Gulf countries, how do you assess the future of Egypt and the Arab countries? And do you believe that the chances of ending the Gulf War have been enhanced by these developments?

[Answer] Relations among Arab peoples have been maintained without interruption in the worst and darkest times, for they are stronger and more durable than any formality. Nonetheless, formalizing these relations gives them added strength and durability. I believe that the Arab future is bright. Let us hope that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and most Arab countries is but the beginning of Arab unity in the face of looming dangers. Let us also hope that the age of divisiveness and disunity is gone forever. President Mubarak's visit to the Gulf nations was confirmation of this notion and in support of joint Arab cooperation in all political, economic, military, and intellectual fields. As for the Gulf War, it will undoubtedly be influenced by the new Arab position, for if the regime in Iran were to sense that the Arab countries are truly serious about adopting a unified position, it would immediately submit to the resolution to stop the fighting.

[Question] How do you assess the new Egyptian peace initiative in light of the current situation?

[Answer] The initiative undoubtedly represents a praiseworthy effort on the part of the Egyptian administration in its endeavors to revive peace efforts in the Middle

East. In my opinion, however, the matter requires not only a new initiative but also sincere intentions to establish peace, but this is unthinkable to the Israelis. Therefore, all efforts for a just peace will collide with Israeli intransigence and amount to nothing. There is no alternative to compelling the Israeli administration to grant the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

[Question] Do you believe that the popular uprising in occupied Palestine represents a kind of "compulsion" for the Israeli administration to change its positions?

[Answer] The popular uprising has been of great benefit to the Palestinian cause and has helped generate a world opinion sympathetic to the Palestinians in the occupied territories and intolerant of the Israeli crackdown policy. It is a significant gain the Palestinians have achieved by and for themselves. Furthermore, the continuation of the uprising will inevitably lead to a palpable change in Israel's policies. The important thing is that the Arabs unite to lend support to the occupied territories' youth to confer added efficacy and power to the uprising.

[Question] You have made personal efforts in an attempt to effect a kind of rapprochement between Egypt and both Libya and Syria. What were the results of these endeavors, and were they conducted with the approval of the Egyptian government or not?

[Answer] I completely believe in the unity of the Arab people. Accordingly, the Labor Party—which I have the honor to lead—and I have spared no efforts and have held back no views that can contribute to the realization of the Arabs' desired objective, namely their unity.

Within this framework, and through my good relations with some brothers both in Libya and Syria, I attempted to mend the rift between Egypt and Libya and between Egypt and Syria, hoping to achieve at least a good-neighbor arrangement as a starting point, followed by serious and sincere steps to restore relations to what they ought to be among Arab friends. It can be said that we have made great progress in this regard, in that media campaigns on both sides have been stopped in order to set the stage for an objective and constructive dialogue.

No doubt such matters and steps are undertaken in coordination with the Egyptian government.

[Question] To move on to domestic issues, do you have a complete conception of how to solve the housing problem? And in this regard, what do you think about the new housing law now before the People's Assembly?

[Answer] I have said before that the housing problem in Egypt requires a radical solution and decisive resolutions because, at a time when young people with limited incomes cannot find a place to live to start their family life, there are about 200,000 vacant apartments in Cairo alone because the landlords insist on selling them—not renting them—at astronomical prices. Moreover, current

government housing policies encourage home buying, and I do not know how young people can get 20,000 or 25,000 Egyptian pounds to pay for a modest apartment. In my opinion, the government ought to designate government-built housing for rent to put a stop to the home buying phenomenon that has swept the Egyptian housing market. A radical solution can only be achieved if the government provides building lots and construction material for young people at token prices, as well as necessary services, with the cost to be paid off in long-term payments, whereby a group of young people can join together to have a building with units equal to their number built and share the cost, which can be paid off in long-term payments.

12502

KUWAIT

Rise in Energy Use Projected

44000061 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
17-18 Mar 88 p 14

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (Kuna): According to a Kuwaiti study published here today Kuwait total consumption of energy in the year 2000 will rise to 96.7 million barrels a year, an increase of 1.2 to 2.3 percent yearly.

The report, tabled by the Kuwaiti delegation to the fourth Arab energy conference which winds up here tomorrow, said the largest part of consumption would be in the field of electricity generation which will rise to 39 million barrels in the year 2000 against 35.4 million barrels in 1986.

The study indicated that total use of energy for all purposes in Kuwait has reached 74.4 million barrels of oil in 1986, which equals 203,000 barrels a day.

The study has projected its estimates of future demand for energy in the period 1990 to 2000 on the basis of present forecasts on national income, estimated population growth, per capita income and expected changes in oil prices and general averages of inflation.

According to the study forecasts, domestic consumption of energy including electricity, would rise to 12.1 million barrels of oil in 2000 compared to only 9.3 million barrels in 1986.

It is also expected, in transportation sector, that energy utilisation would grow from 13.9 million barrels of oil in 1986 to nearly 25.6 million barrels in 2000.

The study, however, estimated that individual share of total energy would decrease from 41 to 31 barrels for the same period on the basis of projected population growth and changes in electricity tariffs.

The study said that despite the decrease in demand for energy in the world market the number of workers in the field of energy in Kuwait edged up from 25,400 in 1980 to 27,600 in 1986.

The report added that such hike is related to increasing activities of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries such as the modernisation of refineries at home, or acquisition of projects abroad.

It indicated that a number of workers of the Ministry of Water and Electricity declined to 11,400 in 1986 from 13,000 in 1981.

The Kuwaiti delegation to the conference is headed by Siham Ruzuki from the Oil Ministry, and includes a number of officials from the ministry, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in addition to Kuwait Petrochemical Industries Company.

/9604

LEBANON

Columnist Views Trust in U.S. as Unwise
44040137a Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
15 Mar 88 p 11

[Column by Shukri Nasrallah: "In Short"]

[Text] We want to ask a question for God's sake.

Why do we still think that America loves Lebanon and wants an end to its misfortunes?

Were there no American hands involved in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon?

Was America, or the world, for that matter, so naive as to not realize that the war in Lebanon would end up where it is today?

Did America keep its distance from the parties and militias which did what they did and moved on? Which showed no mercy to land, people or town, but destroyed them instead?

Was America the last to find out when the Lebanese army was split up into armies, when officers became leaders, and the leaders kept quiet and swallowed the bitter medicine?

Was America uninvolved in fabricating, weaving, and arranging the 17 May agreement?

If America had really been ignorant of all this, it would have been better for us to not rely on it and place our lives in its hands. A naive person does not depend on another naive person. However, what happened to us is the same thing that happened to the Egyptian who said, "We brought you in, 'Abd-al-Mu'in, to observe, and we

find you, 'Abd-al-Mu'in, being observed yourself." Or, as the Lebanese, Syrian or Palestinian would say, "We brought in a bald man to entertain us, and he uncovered his head and frightened us." And so forth.

And, if America was aware of everything which happened, as it most likely was, we erred twice, once in surrendering our fate to it, and another time in watching her slaughter us and thanking her."

America bestowed all of this on us, but we were not satisfied. Instead, we continue sending letter after letter, representative after representative, and emissary on the heel of emissary, to request Washington's mercy, friendship and pleasure. We are the bullets of its pistols, its arrows, its myrmidons. Why aren't we serving it the way it wants?

The proof of its love for us is that it has sent its secretary of state, George Schultz, to every Arab, Middle Eastern and world capital except Beirut.

In Moscow, he brought up the situation in Lebanon. In Washington, he promised to carry Lebanon's message to whomever it might concern. In Tel Aviv, he talked about Lebanon. In Damascus, he gave the Syrians Lebanon's message (i.e. Amin al-Jumayyil's plan for a political solution). In Cairo he brought up the Lebanese situation. In London, Paris and Rome—but not in Lebanon, which he has never visited in the course of his travels.

How can Schultz be a friend of Lebanon without coming to visit it?

How can Washington be Lebanon's other mother when it doesn't feel Lebanon's sorrow and doesn't try to help it?

How can Reagan be Lebanon's father when he has none of the feelings of a father for Lebanon?

Have you ever seen a country as masochistic as Lebanon?

Strike it, and it says "Thank you."

Destroy it, and it says, "Fine."

Set it on fire, and it says, "Great."

Or, does Lebanon perhaps want to be a new messiah, who will cry out from the cross, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do?"

8559

Interview Expounds Industrial Crisis, Remedial Measures

44040121 Beirut AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI in Arabic
8 Feb 88 pp 34-35

[Interview with Dr Fu'ad Abi Salih, chairman of the Association of Manufacturers, date and place not specified, by 'Imad Mallah: "Industry Turns Weakness Into Strength"]

[Text] Industry is the prime productive sector in the country. The effects of general political and economic stagnation during the destructive years of war have had an impact on several production sectors, leading to the collapse of the industrial sector which used to be a major economic bulwark in Lebanon.

Preliminary estimates in a 1982 study indicate that industry suffered direct losses amounting to some 30 billion Lebanese pounds, not to mention the drain of "industrial brains" such as engineers, technicians, and others who were attracted by financial incentives and better working conditions abroad.

The study indicates that Lebanese industry was unable to hold its own during the past 5 years but deteriorated drastically. The average annual decline was 4.5 percent for labor, 12 percent for industrial investment, and 11.25 percent for exports.

In 1983, the industrial sector declined by 32 percent from the previous year. Its 22 percent decline in 1984 would be 50 percent in real terms if foreign exchange were factored in.

The effects of the Israeli invasion on living conditions made matters even worse, causing industrialists to invest their capital overseas rather than expose it to successive risks such as occurred since 1975.

AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI interviewed Dr Fu'ad Abi Salih, chairman of the Association of Industrialists, about industry and its tribulations, especially in view of the hardships it suffered as a result of recent developments and of the destructive war that threatens to obliterate all industry.

Sa'id Abi Salih: After 13 years of terrible war, industry suffered disastrous material losses because the war kept businessmen, financiers, and even banks from giving loans to any industrial organization, be it a government-supported infrastructure; industry; agriculture; etc. This problem curtailed the development of industry resulting in lack of modernization, innovation, and diversity in fiscal and monetary policies. As a consequence, the state stopped supporting the economic base and industry collapsed.

He added that before the developments, Lebanese industry employed some 120,000 workers and contributed 20 percent. Its most important role was represented in its

responsiveness to the needs of domestic markets and in the increased volume of exports which was a major factor in reducing domestic prices and improving the trade deficit.

Presently, most plants and factories are in ruins. The few that remain cannot function because of the lack of operating funds. Add to this the internal difficulties of which the Lebanese are fully aware, such as portioning domestic markets into specific zones and the inability of production to dominate the markets because of difficult conditions as a result of the Gulf war which reduced the level of imports and because of infrastructure problems that impacted industry (blackouts, interruptions in the water service, transportation difficulties, the shortage of equipment...etc.)

Abi Salih added: If we want industry to move forward quickly and to regain its pre-war status, the following factors must be present:

—Mobilizing the productive potential in view of the harmful effects [of the war] and the cessation of work ever since the fighting began.

—Terminating the smugglers trade. The increase in smuggling has left national industry without protection and therefore unable to compete domestically. Smuggling also prevents industry from utilizing its products to target foreign markets.

—Encouraging new investments in the industrial sector. Industry as it currently stands needs to be revived by starting up several projects. This can be accomplished by facilitating credit from banks and institutions and from the Council for Reconstruction and Development and other banking sectors.

We have studied all agreements between Lebanon and other nations in order to place them in their proper perspective, considering that they are more than 20 years old and need to be changed and modified in light of current conditions.

We presented these suggestions to the state, after asking it to act as an "economic diplomat" in order to overcome difficulties encountered with some Arab countries that are major importers of Lebanese products. We, as an association of manufacturers were contributors to—indeed, originators of similar agreements to ensure the distribution of our goods in countries with planned economies and therefore must be approached through specific economic policies.

Question: The Lebanese have come to depend on industry to a great extent because of the fluctuation of the dollar, the high rate of foreign exchange, and the difficulty of importing foreign goods. This has encouraged and promoted an industrial "renaissance" albeit under difficult conditions. How do you interpret this competition between profitable and nonprofitable enterprises?

Answer: Actually, Lebanese industry has become the last haven for those with fixed incomes even though current economic conditions are extremely difficult and there is no real solution except an end to the war. Other solutions are inadequate at best. Monetary authorities must review and modify their current policies in order to return liquidity to markets and credit to the various sectors and to restore confidence in the Lebanese economy. This may be accomplished by:

—Facilitating exports and removing obstacles in the way of Lebanese industry.

—Concluding new trade agreements or modifying existing ones in the interest of Lebanese industry.

—Guaranteeing industrial exports and providing low-interest long-term loans to counter the time it takes to receive payment for exported goods.

—Facilitating barter transactions. Such measures would include the normal expediting of shipping documents by transit authorities in transit countries and by security and customs authorities in final destination countries.

The above would greatly enhance the purchasing power of the Lebanese consumer.

Question: Industry, though favored by economic policy as the key to development and growth, has been hurt by the lack of infrastructure (interruption in electric and water services, the immigration of skilled and specialized labor, the closure of certain plants and institutions for urgent reasons). How do you adapt to this and what measures are you taking to save industry from its severe crisis?

Answer: We are aware that industry, and other economic sectors and national activities as well, are facing hard times because of the constantly changing security policies. Therefore, we find that at present the climate is not sufficiently conducive to industrial progress. We oppose partition of the land. We fight to impose our peaceful ideas, to remain united, and to save our products. We also fight to restore security and stability. In other words, we are buying time. Unfortunately, we have been unable to make public opinion sensitive to our problems. Industry should be given priority in order to save society from collapse.

This state of affairs can only impress us with the importance of this stage. Lebanese public opinion has begun to realize that industry is the basic means for salvation. A sound and healthy industry would pull other sectors towards a better future, socially and politically. When this is accomplished, industry would have been the only victory attained by Lebanon and could be the starting point towards a prosperous fatherland capable of providing and surviving in the wake of a depressing period when everyone suffered and no one gained.

National Unions Make Political, Economic Recommendations

44040137b Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] In its third session, which met yesterday at the Franciscan School, the General Conference of National Unions set 10 April as the deadline for passing bills to protect the Lebanese pound, the national social security fund, and public services, and March as the deadline for reforming wages according to the consumer price index.

The conference issued a number of political, national, economic, social and fiscal recommendations.

With respect to national issues, the conference called for a final end to the war on the basis of a political, non-sectarian, democratic solution, and stressed the need to "completely liberate the country, support the national resistance against Israeli occupation by every possible means, help the southerners stand fast, extend the state's sovereignty over all of Lebanon, and evacuate all foreign forces."

The conference expressed the view that holding presidential elections is a critical matter, and constitutes one axis of the fundamental struggle in the coming phase, inasmuch as the president will not just preside over the crisis but will solve it.

The recommendations stressed the need to open avenues. In case there is any delay in this, the conference's follow-up committee should take the appropriate steps to achieve this demand.

The economic and social recommendations expressed the session's view that the general program of demands resolved by the first session of the General Conference of National Unions "is still the correct, proper basis for dealing with the profound changes needed to revive the national economy." This program's priorities included improving the wage, price, and currency situation, social security, and public services.

These recommendations were part of the general report, which was submitted to the conference as a working paper, and to which no essential changes were made. The report termed the third session of the General Conference of National Unions "another step on the way to dialog and struggle, coming after some people had succumbed to calls to give up."

The conference, which was held under the slogan "In defense of bread, democracy, peace, and Lebanon's unity, Arabism, independence and sovereignty," was attended by about 500 delegates representing labor unions and federations, professional unions, cultural, women's and youth societies, authorities and movements, and other bodies.

In general, the discussions followed the agenda of the conference and its general report, except for the speech by Teachers' Union President Antoine Ra'd, who demanded that the report's definition of occupation not confine itself to the Israeli occupation, since he puts Israeli occupation and the Syrian presence in Lebanon on an equal footing. But some people objected, and the discussions on the goals of the conference went back on track. President of the General Labor Union Antoine Bisharah opened the session at 10:13 in the morning with the Lebanese national anthem. He then delivered a speech in which he said that what Lebanon is going through today is "the most dangerous stage, in which we are witnessing the collapse of the 1940's state and all its organizations."

He said, "The chasm which separates a political, influential class from a starving people restricted by the rules of law is the final round in the process of separation and schism which leads to the extinction of nations and the dispersal of their peoples."

Bisharah demanded an electoral system which would fuse the society together, the establishment of a representative council which would guarantee participation by the vital forces which make up Lebanese society, including the union movement, professions, the various sectors of society, and the introduction of extensive changes in the political, economic and social systems.

Then Zaydan and 'Abd-al-Jawad presented the general report. Before the floor was opened to discussion, it was suggested to the conference chairman that the activities of the third session of the conference be shortened to a single session. Those making the suggestion got what they wanted, and the conference concluded its activities on Saturday, without going on to Sunday.

The Text of the Recommendations

The third session of the General Conference of National Unions was held in Beirut on 27 and 28 February 1988. It was the culmination of a series of preparatory conferences held throughout Lebanon, and the embodiment of the unity of the Lebanese people, who have suffered from the war and the worsening political, economic and social crises, and of the unity of the organized democratic opposition to policies of pillage, impoverishment, and exploitation.

After expressing its high esteem for the vehement, all-encompassing struggles waged by all sectors of society throughout Lebanon, particularly the nation-wide general strike and the popular demonstrations of 9 November 1987, which were a united reaction by the Lebanese people to the crisis and its causes, and after defending national unity, peace, democracy, sovereignty, independence, and the daily bread, and voicing its adherence to its just demands for daily life, the conference issued the following resolutions.

First of all, the third session endorsed the following stands taken by the general conference in its general report.

1. National issues:

a. The war should be brought to a total, final stop on the basis of a non-sectarian political solution which would guarantee domestic national accord, which in turn would ensure the unity of the land, the people and their organizations, national sovereignty, and complete independence, according to a national democratic solution which would achieve political reform and abolish all forms of sectarianism in the state, its organizations and its laws, in such a way as to fuse the Lebanese together and unite them as members of the country instead of a sect or religious group. Democratic methods should be followed to put this into practice, and an effort should be made to change the republic from a sectarian state into a state of peoples and organizations. Lebanon's Arab relations should be consolidated in their natural context, thus ensuring the strengthening of common interests on the basis of mutual respect. Lebanon's sovereignty and independence must be ensured, its land must be completely liberated, the Lebanese national resistance against Israeli occupation should be supported by every means, the perseverance of the southerners and the occupants of the occupied lands should be reinforced, the United Nations Security Council resolutions to liberate the land and restore state sovereignty over all of Lebanon should be implemented, and all foreign forces should be evacuated from Lebanon.

b. The conference emphasized that all roads and crossing points should be opened immediately without delay, freedom of movement should be ensured, the citizens should be safe from kidnapping and murder, suitable and safe working conditions should be guaranteed for all citizens throughout Lebanon, and the authority of the legitimate state should be extended over all of Lebanon.

In case of any delay in implementing these demands, the follow-up committee of the general conference should take every struggling measure to impose these vital, important demands.

c. The refugees' return to their original places of residence must be ensured, and all obstacles to this must be removed. The state is asked to perform its obligations to look after these refugees and rebuild their homes and villages. Their return is a matter of foremost national concern, inasmuch as it symbolizes a rejection of residential segregation and tendencies towards partition.

2. With respect to presidential elections and the conference's position on that issue, holding the next presidential election as required by the constitution is an important, fateful issue affecting all Lebanese, and an issue which the people must come to grips with. Therefore, the third session considers these elections pivotal to the

upcoming basic struggle to make these constitutionally-required elections a starting point for establishing a government and a state which will work together to resolve the problem and not just preside over it—i.e. to come up with a comprehensive solution for ending the war and guaranteeing national liberation, unity, Arabism, independence, complete sovereignty, and political, economic and social reform. With reference to the general conference's resolutions and its proposed political, national, economic and social solutions, the session calls for their adoption and for an effort to implement them. The conference's third session appeals to the parliament and all the other political forces and figures to adopt and follow this stand in dealing with the constitutionally-required elections, which ought to be held in a democratic, natural manner at their appointed time.

Second, with respect to comprehensive economic and social solutions, the third session of the general conference feels that the general program of demands for solving the economic and social crises, resolved during the first session, is still the correct, proper basis for dealing with the issue, either on the level of the profound changes required, the revival of the national economy, or the economic and social policies required of the state according to the trends mentioned in the third session's general report.

As for ensuring that a socio-economic plan is developed in order to implement the required solutions, the correct solutions for dealing with the economic and social circumstances and their national and security ramifications require that the working class, the General Labor Federation, and the representatives of the various social, professional and popular authorities and organizations work together efficiently and democratically to put this plan into practice and monitor its implementation by means of a socio-economic council.

The third area involves vital, pressing, priority demands.

1. With respect to wages and prices, the third session made the following recommendations.

a. Wage reform for the second half of 1987 must be expedited, entirely on the basis of the 310.7 percent index proposed by the General Labor Federation.

b. The minimum wage must be reviewed on the basis of a new study of family budgets and living costs.

c. The minimum wage must apply to all wage-earners who have reached the age of 18.

d. The sliding wage scale must be confirmed in detail by law, and reform must be implemented through the issuance of a decree by the index committee, to be implemented no later than one month from now. The wage scale must apply to public and private sector employees.

e. Travel reimbursement must be figured at the rate of 20 percent of the price of a tank of gasoline, payable with the monthly wage for the actual number of work days spent travelling.

f. Article 5 of the Lebanese labor law and Article 29 of the private school teachers law must be amended, in order to place strict controls in order to prevent discretionary payments.

g. In order to redress the imbalance between wages and prices, the proposals made by the General Labor Federation to the national price council, concerning freezing, setting and monitoring prices and prosecuting manipulators, must be implemented.

2. With respect to strengthening the pound and protecting it from speculation, decisive measures must be taken urgently and as soon as possible in order to protect the nation's currency, including passage by the parliament of a bill which will amend some of the currency and financial laws and elucidate the provisions of the current banking law, so that the courts, the judgeship of the Bank of Lebanon, and the bank control committee can play their full role in protecting the nation's currency, preventing speculation, and deterring speculators. The third session asks that this bill include the following measures:

a. Banks must be prohibited from selling foreign currency to non-residents in return for pounds. This must apply to banks and financial companies, chiefly the banks of other Arab countries and their branches.

b. Lebanese bank branches operating overseas must be prohibited from accepting deposits or advancing loans in Lebanese pounds.

c. Foreign currency buying and selling must be taxed at a high rate, and these taxes must be put into a currency consolidation fund in the Central Bank.

d. The banks must not allow moneychangers and financial companies to use the credit facilities granted to them to buy foreign currency.

e. Bank loans must be used for productive purposes, not to buy foreign currency.

f. Currency market transactions carried out through the banks must be connected with purely commercial operations, not speculation.

g. The bank control committee must be given broader powers to control and intervene, the courts must be given the power to step in and investigate speculation against the Lebanese pound, and a financial public prosecutor must be appointed to prosecute perpetrators of criminal acts.

h. Funds must be guaranteed for the currency consolidation fund of the Bank of Lebanon, according to Article 75 of the Currency and Credit Law of 1 August 1963, in order to maintain a regulated currency market and overcome the large- and small-scale fluctuations resulting from speculation and from unexpected seasonal factors. This fund must be financed with a large amount of foreign currency capital obtained from the Bank of Lebanon reserves, loans, foreign currency appropriations from international agreements, and other sources, so as to enable this fund to intervene decisively in the market. This fund must be allowed to issue short-term treasury notes.

i. Measures must be taken so that the Bank of Lebanon can control the surplus fluidity which encourages some banks to engage in speculation. Such measures might include increasing the reserves and the various currency tools and raising the interest on treasury notes when necessary, while keeping the needs of the economy in mind.

j. Foreign currency loans should be imposed on the banks in exchange for treasury notes on the Bank of Lebanon.

k. There must be an obligatory foreign currency reserve.

l. Customs fees must be paid at the time approved appropriations are opened at the banks, and the opening of similar appropriations abroad must be prohibited. These measures, which can constitute sources of financing for the proposed currency fund, must be taken all together and in their entirety, in addition to fundamental measures to stop inflationary expenditures and waste, regain the ports and the public utilities, and stop the illegal tolls and taxes imposed on the people at the crossing points and elsewhere.

3. As for social security, it must be salvaged and its financial and administrative circumstances reformed. Wastage and deficits in its branches must be dealt with according to the proposals which the General Labor Federation has submitted to the officials. An urgent financial loan of 4 billion Lebanese pounds must be paid to cover the deficit.

4. The following demands relate to public services:

a. Fuels must be provided according to the policy set down by the conference, and subsidies for petroleum derivatives must be resumed and rationalized.

b. The refineries must be put back into operation and expanded, their storage capacity must be expanded, there must be more supervision, and the fuels must reach the consumer without wastage or levies.

c. Wheat subsidies must be continued and rationalized, a supply of flour must be ensured, there must be specifications for the quality of bread, the price of bread must be set, and storehouses must be built throughout the country.

d. Public services such as electricity, water, telephone and roads must be ensured. Public utilities must be rehabilitated and maintained, and utility rates must be collected nation-wide.

e. Conditions in the state employees' cooperative must be improved, and state employees should have better opportunities for advancement according to the plan agreed upon with the Teachers' Bureau.

f. The public-private sector transportation network and the railroad system in the capital and elsewhere must be expanded and improved.

g. Ration cards should be issued for certain basic consumer goods such as wheat, milk, cheese, cooking oil and other oils, powdered spices, and so forth.

5. The following points relate to the demands of everyday life.

a. The session holds fast to its demands concerning housing, rent, food, public transportation, medicines and health care, as stated in the General Federation's proposals. It demands that the government hospitals be improved and subsidized and kept under the Health Ministry's full custody and management, as mentioned in the general program resolved on at the general conference.

b. The chronic educational crisis must be resolved. The principle of democracy in education must be put into practice by providing free education at all levels of education, making education compulsory, and following an educational policy intended to salvage and improve public education. The University of Lebanon should be improved, and private education should be controlled and supervised. A national culture should be developed in order to bring the Lebanese together again in one melting pot and make them more open to other cultures, civilizations and popular experiences. Legislation should be promulgated allowing the Education Ministry to monitor classes at private schools.

c. The conference supports the demands of the professors at the University of Lebanon and all the other demands of public and private sector teachers, and supports the University of Lebanon professors' warning to officials on all levels about the consequences of failing to respond to these just demands.

d. The conference supports and backs the legitimate demands of the public sector and municipal employees, farm workers, fishermen, public drivers, artisans, young people, students, women's associations, journalists, editors, and free professionals (engineers, lawyers and doctors).

The session's fourth concern is setting a deadline for meeting the demands which pertain to the requirements of every-day life. The conference has already stressed that the authorities taking part in it are ready to cooperate with officials in a positive spirit in order to achieve the demands and necessary cures for the crises in living standards. However, the official attitude has been one of procrastination and delay. Therefore, this session demands that the officials ratify and implement the following demands concerning the deadlines.

1. Wages should be reformed according to the index no later than March 1988.

2. Legislation to protect the pound should be passed, and the demands pertaining to social security, public services, and other essential requirements of daily life should be met, no later than 10 April 1988.

Fifth, with respect to the demands brought up at the preparatory conferences, the third session supports the demands pertaining to living requirements which were resolved upon at preparatory conferences elsewhere in Lebanon, and calls for intensifying the struggle to achieve them and have them included in the general program.

Sixth, as for the organization of the conference, the third session has taken the necessary organizational steps to back up the work of the conference and its authorities, along the following lines.

1. The general conference's follow-up committee should be expanded, and permanent information, mobilization, and organization committees should be formed.

2. The authorities participating in the regional preparatory conferences should be considered a part of the structure of the general conference and an extension of it.

Seventh, as for the struggling steps to be taken in the coming phase, the third session calls on the Lebanese people to launch campaigns to defend its interests and reach solutions which will meet its needs and vital demands, on the basis of the unity of the organized democratic struggle and firm cooperation among the various authorities and organizations. These popular campaigns, which depend on mobilization and organization, should be followed up, and general meetings, seminars, festivals, and regional and base conferences should be held to explain the third session's activities and results. The level of confrontation should be raised through the following measures:

1. The conference should engage in demand movements in each profession, sector and region, considering the special demands of each.

2. Struggles should be waged on the national level, and approval should be given to general strikes, demonstrations and sit-ins held to wrest the demands which have been raised.

3. The third session authorizes the follow-up committee to adopt any necessary decisions and take any steps to escalate the struggle, and to schedule these according to developments, trends in the struggle, and the general resolutions of the general conference.

The Report

The general report of the third session covered 16 foolscap pages and contained five sections covering the following topics: an evaluation of the popular campaign between the conference's second and third sessions; new indices in the standard-of-living crisis; a determination of who is responsible for the continuation of the crisis; how to achieve the national salvation program resolved during the first and second conferences, to which a new paragraph was added on the stand on presidential elections; and, finally, struggling work plans for the next phase.

In its preface, the report said that the third session of the union conference was "another way station in the struggle against the state's programs and policies of starvation, plundering and impoverishment, and an opportunity for responsible, democratic debate expressing the views and aspirations of the authorities and organizations which represent the broader masses and social groupings of the Lebanese people so harmed by the worsening crises and the continuation of the war."

The report's first section evaluated the popular campaign which has been waged between the second and third sessions of the conference. The months which separated the two sessions saw a fierce, widespread popular awakening throughout Lebanon, aimed at defending every-day life against attempts to starve and impoverish the people and official policies which were destroying the purchasing power of the masses. This awakening was embodied in labor and popular movements, which carried out several strikes in the industrial, agricultural and services sectors, state organizations, independent authorities, and the government, private and university education sectors. These struggles raised vital, legitimate demands, most of which were longstanding. They expressed mass rejection—by workers, employees, teachers, and low wage earners—of the plundering and impoverishment imposed by state policies and carried out by state organizations, agencies, big merchants, importers, some employers, controlling militias, banks, and financial organizations speculating in the pound unrestrictedly and without any firm control. All of these policies have led to an even more frightful

decline in the standard of living of the overwhelming majority of Lebanese, in the course of which broad segments of the population fell into poverty and famine. These popular movements developed and grew during the months of October and November and during the 5-day general strike, and culminated in the demonstrations which took place in all the towns of Lebanon, the Bika'a Valley, and the capital. The voices of hundreds of thousands rose as one in the street, harmonizing into a truly splendid unity—the unity of interests in defending a nation destroyed by war and false divisions based on sect and ideology, its links cut by contact lines, corridors and barricades. In the streets there was a true union of Lebanese from all sects and regions who were committed to their country, their daily bread, peace, security, education, medical care, and the Lebanese children's right to life.

Some of the feelings of frustration which arose in some people's minds on the morning of the strike and the demonstration were due to the fact that the just demands raised by the conference, especially those concerning protecting the pound, had not been completely achieved. However, the responsibility for this lies not with those who raised this just demand and struggled to achieve it, but with the party which had been asked to achieve this demand, i.e. the state and its various organizations, ministries and general departments. The last battle revealed the truth about the official programs, which are against public demands and partial to the interests of the monopolies and banks speculating in currency. The wide-scale confrontation, carried out through strikes and demonstrations on the one hand, and repeated consultations and contacts made by the follow-up committee and various other authorities with the officials on the other hand, showed that a firm connection exists between the solution for the economic crisis and the political solution. Therefore, achieving these demands and finding radical solutions still requires political and economic changes.

8559

SAUDI ARABIA

'Arafat Statement on Financial Support Angers Officials

44040140 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
5-11 Mar 88 p 14

[Article by Husayn Karim in al-Riyadh: "Saudi-Palestinian Relations: survival of Difficult Test Forestalls a Crisis"]

[Text] Saudi-Palestinian relations were subjected last week to a difficult test which almost caused the long-standing, notable understanding between Riyadh and the PLO to turn into an irremediable crisis. But both kingdom and PLO officials realized that the misunderstanding was as a result of some statements made by Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Mr Yasir

'Arafat to KULL AL-'ARAB magazine in the course of his answer to a question about the countries that offered financial support to the popular uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The rapid developments began on Monday morning, 22 February 1988, the day Yasir 'Arafat's interview hit the Saudi newsstands after getting past the kingdom's censors without arousing any suspicion. The sentence that appeared in the interview and triggered the crisis in al-Riyadh was Abu 'Ammar saying: "Isn't it sad that up to this moment when the popular uprising is in its third month, not a single cent was received from the Arab brothers to support the uprising. Not a single cent was received, despite the fact that some of the Arab brothers have already publicized their donations. Yet nothing has been received so far and I challenge anyone to say that they have paid one fils to support the families in the occupied territories, with the exception of the Iraqi brothers who offered a sum of \$3 million to the martyrs' families through the United Nations and the Kuwaiti brothers, who offered \$5 million through the United Nations."

These words had a shocking effect in Saudi public circles, particularly since the kingdom had announced many times the commencement of fund raising campaigns to support the uprising. In Riyadh, whose governor Prince Salman Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz heads the committee in charge of the donations campaign, the volume of donations collected was constantly being announced in the local press. This is why there was widespread surprise and anticipation of the kingdom response which came in the form of an official announcement last Tuesday tantamount to an accounting of what the kingdom had donated and continues to donate to support the Palestinian resistance.

The announcement emphasized the following:

—The kingdom has donated from 1979 to the present \$386 million either through the joint committee established to deliver this assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories or via the PLO.

—Very recently, the kingdom donated \$20 million directly to the Palestinians in the occupied territories to support universities, hospitals, municipalities, institutes and schools.

—Saudi citizen donations in Riyadh amounted to \$6,214,895.

The source mentioned that the kingdom was forced into this clarification due to Yasir 'Arafat's interview. Despite all this, the kingdom reaffirmed its support for the PLO.

At that point, it seemed to observers that Palestinian-Saudi relations were getting more serious, particularly since the next day, Wednesday, 25 February, the Saudi

press published a statement by Maj Gen 'Atallah 'Atallah (Abu al-Za'im), who broke away from 'Arafat. In his statement, he commended the financial, moral and political support offered by the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. That was the only statement issued by one of the Palestinian leaders. Aside from this, there was total silence in the PLO headquarters in Tunis as well as in their office in Riyadh.

Amid an atmosphere loaded with surprises and apprehension that dominated Palestinian circles, Saudi newspapers on Wednesday, 25 February 1988, commented for the first time on the issue of Saudi support of the Palestinian people. Certain parties explained this move on the part of Saudi media as the beginning of a media campaign that could place Saudi-Palestinian relations at a point of no return. However, those intent on preserving these relations considered the Saudi press editorials a means to clarify the official report. The editorials concentrated on assurances of the kingdom's support of the PLO and the Palestinian people's struggle, stating that the kingdom's stand and its relations with the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's struggle were too great to be the subject of debates, disputes or doubts. At this point, urgent contacts were initiated between Riyadh and Tunis, which centered around the PLO office director in the kingdom, Rafiq al-Natshah, who communicated to the organization's leadership the annoyance felt by the Saudi leaders. A prompt action was necessary to correct matters which had started to augur regrettable incidents.

After agreement with the PLO leadership in Tunis, al-Natshah held a press conference last Thursday to explain what had happened. The explanation was by way of saying: "admitting one's mistakes is a virtue."

Al-Natshah explained that what had happened resulted in a misunderstanding which prompted the Palestinian leadership to send a letter to the custodian of the two Holy Places assuring him that the Palestinian leadership in no way meant to harm the kingdom or undermine its historical role and the extent of its support of the Palestinian revolution and the PLO. In a written statement that he read to reporters, al-Natshah said: "We cannot allow either side to speak in any way that could hurt Palestinian-Saudi relations which we are all proud of." He also praised Saudi support of the Palestinian cause at all levels.

The words of director general of the PLO office in Riyadh slowed down the crisis in Saudi-Palestinian relations. But informed sources in the Saudi capital expect PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit the kingdom as soon as possible to put a stop to the recent speculations about the deteriorating relations between the kingdom and the PLO, which Riyadh denied last Sunday, 29 February 1988, describing Saudi-Palestinian relations as brotherly and friendly. Riyadh also underscored the

firmness and strength of these relations. This recent clarification was considered as putting an end to the critical period which relations between the kingdom and the PLO had undergone.

In another development, the Saudi News Agency reported a statement by a responsible Saudi source that, to prevent any confusion or misinterpretation regarding the brotherly and friendly relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the PLO, we would like to re-emphasize that such relations are deeprooted and unblemished. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia just wanted to clarify its position regarding support for the struggle of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories.

9455/08309

Pipeline Capacity to Red Sea Increased
44000062 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
22 Mar 88 p 12

[Text] Nicosia, Cyprus, 21 March (AP): Saudi Arabia will increase the capacity of a pipeline transporting crude oil from fields on the Gulf to a port on the Red Sea by 55 percent, an oil newsletter reported today.

Expansion of the cross-country facility to 5 million barrels a day "will make Saudi Arabia virtually independent of the Gulf for its crude oil exports, if the need arises," the Middle East Economic Survey reported.

The pipeline presently has a capacity of 3.2 million barrels a day.

Expansion

The publication, citing authoritative Saudi sources, said the expansion will be accomplished entirely by expanding and upgrading pumping facilities and will not require laying of new pipe. Bids for the project were invited to be submitted by mid-March.

No completion date was given.

Saudi Arabia's exports are currently about 4 million barrels a day, according to a production quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, though its production capacity is more than double this amount.

The newsletter said the Saudi project substantially upgrades the Red Sea as one of the world's oil exporting centres.

Iraq sends about 1 million barrels a day across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea at present and is expanding the pipeline network to a capacity of 1.6 barrels a day by September 1989.

"A plan for a pipeline linking Kuwait to the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia is also reported to be under consideration," the Middle East Economic Survey reported.

/9604

SYRIA

Ministry Issues Regulations Governing Importation of Goods

44040171 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 12 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Damascus—TISHRIN—The Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade has issued directives and decrees regulating the private sector's import activities.

These directives provide for:

Granting import licenses and permits to private sector applicants in the governorate where the merchant has his business, relying on the merchants trade register.

Granting import licenses and permits to the private sector importer in accordance with the data and information contained in the commerce or industry register on the importer in question.

Allowing the economy and foreign trade departments and directorates in Damascus and in the governorates to establish a name trade register for importers. One page of the register would be devoted to each importer and the new import applications submitted as of 1 January 1988 would be recorded on this page.

Establishing a specific register for the types of imports requested by the private sector, as of 1 January 1988, in accordance with the following:

1. Requested import goods and commodities with credit facilities were classified as follows:

Industrial raw materials.

Spareparts.

Industrial machinery and equipment, and industrial production supplies.

Agricultural machinery and equipment and agricultural and livestock production supplies.

Other materials.

2. Requested import goods and commodities in accordance with decree No 47 of 1984 governing Syrian expatriates.

3. Requested import goods and commodities in accordance with prime minister's decree No 1791 of 1983, amended by decree No 375 of 1987, decree No 595 of

1987 and Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade decrees No 279 and No 257 of 1987, all of which govern imports with currency generated by exports.

4. Goods and commodities sought to be imported from member countries that have signed payment agreements.

5. Requested import goods and commodities in accordance with Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade decree No 133 of 1986. The Foreign Trade Directorate shall be supplied with monthly lists of the commodities and their values and of the regulations in accordance with which the desired permits will be granted.

Import licenses and permits shall be granted to the private sector for materials allowed to be imported with credit facilities on the basis of a preliminary offer sheet (proformat) signed and sealed by the exporter and approved by the chamber of commerce of the exporter's country.

All shipping documents must be sent to the Syrian Trade Bank in accordance with the import regulations for goods and commodities and the import licenses that were granted on the condition that credit facilities be advanced to the private sector by correspondents (foreign banks specifically). The documents must be sent by registered mail and must observe the regulations governing the delivery of documents to the country, namely regulations issued by the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade No 4492/4/9, dated 8 July 1987, and No 4372/4/9, dated 5 November 1987.

The regulations also call for:

Delivery of the original copies of shipping documents received by the Syrian Trade Bank to the local importer. In return, the importer shall pledge that the goods shipped according to the import licenses which were granted are actually goods imported with 180-day credit facilities.

Providing a copy of the importer's trade record. The import license or permit shall be granted within the limits of each importer's trade record.

Providing a copy of the preliminary original offer sheet signed by the exporter and approved by the chamber of commerce of the exporting country.

Providing a copy of a document issued by the Ministry of Finance or by the ministry's authorized departments in the capital and the governorates stating that the importer is subject to taxation and that he has paid the taxes and fees he owes. This document shall be issued at the beginning of each year and an approved copy of the document shall be attached to each import application.

The following documents and proofs must be attached to applications submitted by the owners of industrial or trade establishments licensed originally to import raw

materials and production supplies needed by their establishments specifically within the guidelines of the estimates established by the Ministry of Industry or by its authorized departments:

1. A letter issued by the Ministry of Industry or by its authorized departments spelling out the annual allocations of raw materials and production supplies needed by these establishments specifically.
2. A letter by the applicant showing that he has actually imported and manufactured the raw materials he is permitted to import on the basis of his allocations for the preceding year. The letter must also show the manufactured part of the allocations and the manner in which this part was used at the importer's responsibility.

The regulations also state that private sector applicants may not be granted permits to import authorized goods through credit facilities until they submit a document issued by the customs departments concerned proving that the applicant concerned has actually carried out the import transactions provided for in previously granted permits and that the goods and materials imported in accordance with those permits have actually been cleared. Import permits issued to the owners of industrial and trade establishments licensed originally to import within the guidelines of the estimates established by the Ministry of Industry or by its authorized departments shall be excluded from this provision.

Applications submitted by private sector importers to import goods and commodities authorized in accordance with prime minister's decree No 1791 of 1983, amended by decree No 1474 of 1985, decree No 375 of 1987 and decree No 595 of 1987 and in accordance with Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade decree Nos 257 and 279 of 1987, all of which govern imports with currency generated by exports, and import applications submitted in accordance with the provisions of Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade decree No 47 of 1984 which governs Syrian expatriates shall be exempted.

The regulations state that their provisions shall be applied to import permits granted in accordance with credit facilities as of this date. All regulations contradicting the above shall be amended.

08494

Governors Enumerate Developmental Achievements Since Revolution

Tartus Governor Discusses Accomplishments

44040143 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
11 Mar 86 p 6

[Article by Haytham Yahya Muhammad: "Great Accomplishments in Agriculture, Education, Electric Power, Water, Roads and Economy"]

[Text] The Province of Tartus is the immortal pearl of the sea and a dear product of the 8 March Revolution unleashed by the leaders of our great Arab Ba'th Party.

Today we celebrate the 25th anniversary of this revolution that has grown in strength, resolve and thought. Tartus, built after 8 March, has witnessed countless accomplishments in all the various services, economic, social, cultural, agricultural and touristic fields that are too many to enumerate. Nonetheless, and a quarter of a century after the outbreak of the revolution, AL-THAWRAH met with Mr Muhammad Walid Hamamiyah, governor of Tartus, who talked about some of the province's accomplishments under the March Revolution, especially following the blessed corrective movement led by the fighting comrade, Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party.

The governor says:

If we are to talk about the glorious March Revolution, the revolution of the toiling farmers and workers and of the leading Arab Socialist Ba'th party, and about its great achievements at all levels, we need volumes of books. For this revolution, which, in the wake of the corrective movement, has assumed a new dimension and a new depth, has turned the Syria of the Arabs into a proud state striving for sublimity. It has laid the solid foundation for a strong economic base and has built a human being committed to his Arab nation and its great party's goals of unity, freedom and socialism. The March Revolution, under the command of our comrade and leader, is one that is forever growing and changing, a revolution of benevolence and inexhaustible generosity. Its accomplishments in our country are great and they have not and will not cease. Each day brings to our provinces a new accomplishment. Tartus, the "daughter of the revolution," is one province that has benefitted much from the March Revolution and the corrective movement. On the occasion of our people's celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the revolution, I would like to mention some of what our beautiful province has received.

First, I would like to say that the Province of Tartus, up until 1967, was part of the Province of Latakia and became a province as of that date. It is made up of five districts—Tartus, Safita, Duraykish, Shaykh Badir, Banyas—encompassing 894 villages and farms, all enjoying essential services. The Province of Tartus, lying along 70 kilometers of Mediterranean coast, enjoys a magnificently beautiful nature, bringing together plains and mountain, sea and land. It includes many historical sites bespeaking our forefathers' civilization...and tourist sites everywhere. The arm of the revolution and the corrective movement has reached all locations, offering help and services to our people.

In the Field of Agriculture

The total area of the province is 189,620 hectares, including 126,479 hectares of arable land, 32,184 hectares of unarable land, 30,251 hectares of forestland and 706 hectares of meadows and grassland. The arable land is divided into 104,792 hectares of unirrigated land, 75,397

hectars of wooded land and 29,395 hectares of barren land. As for the irrigated land, its area amounts to 21,687 hectares, 5,994 hectares of which are wooded. The province's production plan includes intensive farming at a rate of 100 percent in non-irrigated land and 220 percent in irrigated land.

There are 75,000 hectares planted in olive trees. The province has 7.5 million olive trees, 1.5 million citrus trees and 1.5 million apple trees, in addition to a large number of other trees of various kinds.

Also under the revolution seedling production centers have been set up, like the Tartus nursery along the Safita line, the 'Amrit nursery and two centers under construction: the new 'Amrit center on 1,500 dunums and the Dayrun center on 1,000 dunums, plus five other centers for forest seedlings.

The province now has about 700 greenhouses.

The most important agricultural projects completed are: The project to survey and classify the province's land with a view to setting proper guidelines for planting various crops in the province and proper and suitable utilization in accordance with mapped soil classification and with guidelines, recommendations and proposals based on soil classifications and laboratory analysis.

The project to subsidize general pest control measures at a cost of about 12 million Syrian pounds with a view to providing capabilities and means for protecting the province's crops and trees against local epidemics or epidemics brought in by agricultural shipments via the port or across the border. Three agricultural airports, several warehouses and maintenance workshops and an agricultural quarantine have been set up in al-'Aridah; an agricultural quarantine, a port degermination station and an air unit building have been constructed in Abu-'Afsah and a fruit tree planning project for reclaiming province land and planting it with fruit trees have been completed at a cost of about 79 million Syrian pounds. As of the end of 1987, 89,058 dunums had been reclaimed, 59 kilometers of agricultural roads had been built and several projects, including a 27 million pound fruit seedling project aimed at meeting the need for these types of seedlings, citrus trees in particular; the 4.5 million pound veterinary health care project that includes artificial insemination and veterinary health care centers aimed at offering free high-productivity artificial insemination for cattle and breeding and clinical treatment; a garage and fuel station at a cost of 2.5 million Syrian pounds; the 13 million pound project to improve agricultural guidance has been completed and the province has 56 pilot units offering services to farmers. Other completed projects include the forest development and local cattle upgrading project aimed at improving cattle production and conserving animal wealth, whereby local cattle production would go up by about 8,000 tons of milk and 525 tons of meat at a total value of 35 million Syrian pounds at 1985 prices and

raising local cattle productivity through improvements amounting to no less than 130 million Syrian pounds whereby the production of one head of cattle would increase from 800 to 1,600 kilograms of milk per year.

There is also the scientific agricultural research center project which is 80 percent completed. This project was established in the village of al-Jabasah on 130 dunums, in addition to another 80-dunum area of land for the purpose of studying the province's agricultural problems and participating in finding appropriate solutions through scientific testing of vegetable production. This center became operational in 1987.

Roads

Under the March Revolution, a large number of primary and secondary roads have been built in the province, the most important of which are: the 250 million pound Tartus-Banyas Autostrad, the 150 million pound Tartus-'Akkari Autostrad to Hims, the 20 million pound Tartus-Safitah road and the 23 million pound Tartus-Duraykish road, in addition to several bridges. As for secondary roads, they represented, as of the beginning of 1988, a 2,455 kilometer network that includes 1,575 kilometers of black top, 580 kilometers of paved top and 300 kilometers of dirt top. All these roads have been built in accordance with modern technical specifications at a total cost so far of about 700 million.

In the field of railroad construction in the province, between 1966 and 1969, the revolution completed the 45 million pound Tartus-'Akkari line linking Tartus Port to the railroad system. Between 1970 and 1976, the work project affiliated with the Tartus-'Akkari line was completed at a cost of 5 million. In 1983, the flour mill subsidiary, the agricultural bank depot, the cement factory station, and the Tartus-Ruwaysah cement factory subsidiary were completed at a cost of 6 million. Now we are in the process of building the Tartus-Latakia railroad track (industrial and earth works) for tourism, and a Latakia-Tartus port connection. The cost of this vital project is 300 million.

Electric Power

The governor says: Prior to the 8 March Revolution, electricity was confined to the following districts: Tartus, Safitah, Banyas, Duraykish and al-Qadmus, five districts in all. Today, 806 out of 894 villages and farms have electric power, 11 of which got their electricity between 1963 and 1970, 8 in 1976, 30 in 1977, 49 in 1978, 77 in 1979, 134 in 1980, 110 in 1981, 117 in 1982, 113 in 1983, 79 in 1984, 45 in 1985, 25 in 1986 and 3 in 1987. Other projects have been completed as well, including the 5.5 million Electric Power Administration building, the Arwad electric generators and the Tartus-Banyas electric power plant. The revolution has also completed the 1.5 million thermal station in Banyas and Tartus, the Banyas and Sinn transformer stations.

As for telephone service, phone lines have been extended to about 400 villages, in addition to a direct dialing service at the province's headquarters and other districts where high capacity direct dialing switchboards have been installed.

The province has 24 main post offices, up from 8 in 1963, and 22 branch offices. Before the March Revolution, office headquarters used to be located in leased quarters. Now, several modern headquarters have been built and a new 10 million headquarters for the Post Office Administration is under construction. New services have been introduced to the post office establishment, including the payment of social security pensions, the post office savings fund and the electronic transmission of messages and documents.

Water

In the early seventies, the province had 18 water projects, most of which were completed after the outbreak of the revolution. These projects furnished water to 65 villages in various districts. Today, there are about 80 projects supplying water to over 480 villages, representing 65 percent of the population. We are now monitoring a project for supplying water from al-Sinn to Tartus, Banyas and coastal towns. This project has made great headway and the city of Banyas will receive water from this project soon as will the Island of Arwad. The Sinn water will be supplied to the 'Anazah and Qadmus Mountains as well as to 80 villages and farms.

The Military Housing Corporation in Latakia has concluded the necessary studies for this important project which we plan to incorporate into this year's investment plan.

In the Field of Education

The glorious March Revolution has paid special attention to this issue, training well-qualified teachers and building schools equipped with all the necessary tools. Most of these schools, which before the revolution were quasi-schools, have turned into model ones. Today, there are 573 elementary schools with 94,823 students, 61 intermediate schools with 40,631 students and 84 high schools with 19,988 students, in addition to 164 new nursery schools and 3 institutes. By and large, there are now 161,430 students at the various educational levels, up from 63,569 in 1970, keeping in mind that modern schools have laboratories, activity rooms, halls, playgrounds, restrooms and fences not available in the old schools.

Supplies

Comrade Hamamiyah went on to say:

In the field of supplies, several projects have been completed in the province, represented in automated bakeries that have been set up in all districts and some

subdivisions to provide citizens with good bread. A branch of these bakeries, which now includes 8 automated bakeries, was set up in 1985 in 100,000 ton silos and in the Tartus flour mill. In 1977, a retail company was created with 12 small sales outlets. Today, there are 59 sales outlets, including a consumer complex in Tartus, 9 display halls and 49 sales outlets in cities and villages.

Huge Economic Establishments

The glorious March Revolution built a strong economic base by creating major economic establishments throughout the provinces. In Tartus, an oil refinery has been built in Banyas to refine crude oil and manufacture petroleum byproducts to meet domestic market demand and export the surplus at a designed capacity of 6 million tons a year. These and other related projects cost 2.5 billion Syrian pounds and include the plan to furnish the refinery with water from the Sinn River and other alternate water sources; the biological basin to reduce pollution and diminish waste in refining operations; the central square for vehicle repair and equipment; the workers housing project; the electrical power station; the natural cooling tower to raise the capacity of the recycled water treatment unit; and upgrading and raising the production of petroleum products and many other projects. Moreover, Tartus Port was built as a major and important economic outlet to the world. In recent years, it has been developed and expanded into the largest port in the region. There is also the Tartus factory, built on four lines and a 6,400-ton a day capacity, to meet the country's demand for cement and clinker and to export the surplus; the Syrian Oil Company, established in 1952 and nationalized in June 1972 in the wake of the blessed corrective movement; the peanut company; the phosphate silos and the oil terminal that receives oil from the fields, refines it, loads it on tankers and sends part of it to the Hims and Banyas refineries, the Duraykish water plant, the natural silk company and the public sector construction corporations.

City of Tartus

Important services are available in all cities, towns and villages, be it in the field of paved roads, providing water and electric power or schools. The city of Tartus, the province's seat, has achieved major accomplishments notwithstanding that it became the seat as late as 1969 following the Tartus events. Among the major projects that have been completed are the paving and asphaltting of 86 kilometers of city streets and roads and the building of necessary sidewalks and shoulders; the construction of a municipal palace, a slaughterhouse, a fire station, bus stops, the Jazirah and the Ahlam Casino, parks, and the installation and daily maintenance of 7,000 street lights after 1963.

Add to that a large number of parks, the most significant of which are the Mishwar, the Tala'i-Port, the Mahattah, the Corniche, the Bahri and Kamal 'Adwan, covering a total area of 122,500 square meters. Construction

has begun on a central park on an area of 9.5 hectares. A 108 kilometer-long sewage system has been built, a topographic survey has been conducted and a city planning chart has been prepared for a total area of 950 hectares, in addition to other self-financed projects at a cost of 142,980,000 Syrian pounds. As for projects completed in Tartus through government funding, they are: the flood control project to protect the city against floods during torrential rains; the project to control the Shamqah River and construction of two bridges over the river; main sewage systems and the al-'Ajami river bed drains; the pump line to protect the city from pollution and set up a sound sewage system; the construction of 160 housing units by the General Housing Corporation to be distributed to the families of martyrs and those affected by the city planning project and the autostrad.

These are some of the things accomplished in the Province of Tartus under the glorious March Revolution. Finally, on the occasion of the popular celebrations of the March anniversary, an occasion that is dear and close to all our heart, we shall strive to carry out all guidelines and directives our fighting leader, Hafiz al-Asad, has put forth, directing us to spare no effort in serving the people and working tirelessly for the sake of building this country and fulfilling the accomplishments that started with the outbreak of the revolution and intensified in the wake of the corrective movement led by the leading father. I am hopeful that the province will cooperate with my colleagues in the regional command and with my fellow officials throughout the province in applying the motto of serving the people and safeguarding their dignity.

Governor of Hims Views Progress

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Mar 88 p 6

[Article by Muhammad Zurayqa: "Universal Services and Construction Boom and Great Interest in Country and Citizens"]

[Text] The 8 March Revolution in our country created a radical change that included all aspects of life: society, culture, science, agriculture and services.

Under the revolution and the leadership of the party and its secretary general, comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Syria has been transformed into a center of civilizational light which guides generations.

Accomplishments prevail throughout the country, finding their way to every home in our cities and villages.

Hims is one province that has benefitted from the many gifts the revolution has offered to the residents so that they may enjoy a good life. For further details about what the revolution has offered to the Province of Hims, we met with Mr. Yahya Abu-'Asali, the governor of Hims, to get a glimpse of the pervasive growth in the province under the revolution. He said:

When we talk about the 8 March Revolution, it is difficult for us to enumerate its accomplishments because they include everything. We will try in this respect to talk as much as possible about a number of areas that have benefitted from the revolution's accomplishments. Let us begin with education where the number of elementary educational schools has reached 1,340, 100 of which were completed last year at a cost of 165 million Syrian pounds. The number of intermediate and secondary educational schools is 875 at a cost of 85 million pounds, in addition to the construction of 7 vocational high schools at a cost of 130 million pounds and teachers' training centers at cost of 6 million pounds.

In the field of road construction, a local network of 250 kilometers has been completed at a cost of 115 million pounds, including 75 roads in the province's rural areas. Work is currently underway to complete projects for another 25 roads at a cost of 12 million pounds, in addition to road maintenance at a cost of about 20 million pounds per year and the construction of the Hims bypass at a cost of over 200 million pounds.

As for health services, more than 50 health centers have been built in the province to offer health services to rural residents; other centers and two complete clinics have been built in the city of Hims in the Karm al-Zaytun and Gardenia districts; the Palmira Hospital has been completed and equipped; the Hims National Hospital has been modernized, all at a cost of 50 million pounds. Work is underway now to complete two health projects: the 120-bed Talkalakh and Rustun hospitals, and studies for the construction of a large hospital at al-Wa'r district in Hims have been concluded.

The governor went on to say:

Regarding fresh water, 75 water projects have been completed in the province at a cost of 110 million Syrian pounds and these projects have been put into operation. Work is now underway to drill, and equip dozens of other projects. With regard to supply services, 5 automated bakeries have been built in rural areas and four in the city at a cost of 80 million pounds and another two reserve bakeries have been built in Hims. All these bakeries have gone into operation to provide good bread for the people.

Seven construction material distribution centers have been built in rural areas to supply these areas, thus alleviating financial burdens and waste of time associated with transporting such material from the province's center.

Moreover, dozens of consumer sale centers and supply rooms have been built and leased to meet the needs of the people locally and prevent merchant exploitation.

Furthermore, three storage and cooling units have been built to store vegetables, fruits and other foodstuffs to be put on the market whenever necessary.

Vegetable and fruit company centers and halls have been built as well, in addition to processing centers, meat markets and a modern flour mill in Hims with a 250-ton production capacity.

Work is currently underway to build and complete the grain silo project.

Work was not limited to supply material only. Other marketing centers for the sale of fabrics, textiles, clothing and shoes have been built as well, and numerous other cooperative marketing centers have been opened throughout the province to support cooperative work and meet the demand for consumer goods.

In the Field of Culture and Education

Under the revolution, the Ba'th University, one of the largest educational buildings in the province, was established and a number of colleges have been added to it. Work is now underway to complete construction on other colleges. Work on the cultural center in Hims, the cultural theatre and cultural centers in Talkalakh, al-Qasir and al-Rustun has been completed at a cost of hundreds of millions of pounds.

In the Field of Cities and Towns

Major accomplishments have been realized in this field, providing essential services to housing developments. Such works and services include roads, links with regional villages and centers and hence the province, construction of public buildings, gardens and water systems, lighting and sewage systems in most administrative units in cities, towns and municipalities.

These units have been put into operation at a cost of over 200 million pounds and investments have amounted to over 135 million.

With regard to electric power, 461 villages have been supplied with electricity, transformer stations have been built in each of al-Dar al-Kabirah, Hudaydah, Barumah, Fayruzah and Qutaynah to conserve energy at the main electric power network and dozens of power lines and electric power transmission lines have been built as well, such as the 400 kilovolt high tension and the 230 kilovolt, the 220 kilovolt and 66/20 kilovolt projects.

In the Field of Industry

A fertilizer complex in Qutaynah for the production of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers has been established to meet the country's demand for this product and do away with importation.

Several projects for upgrading oil processing and refining operations at the Hims refinery have been completed and work is now underway to complete the sixth expansion project to improve the manufacture of petroleum products to meet the demand domestically and export the surplus.

An oil blending plant has been established in Hims to provide this substance.

Numerous lines have been built and maintained and drilling and prospecting operations have been conducted exclusively by local technicians and expertise.

Textile factories, the al-Walid microbus factory, the yeast, olive and alcohol factories and the Zaydan grape processing plant have been established.

In the Field of Agriculture

Major accomplishments have been realized in the agricultural field, the most important of which are:

Nurseries for the production of fruit and forest seedlings, such as the Mukhtariyah nursery, the Shaykh Hamid nursery and the Tirmi'lah and al-Qasir nursery. These nurseries occupy hundreds of dunums of land.

Fifty-one agricultural guidance centers, all of which have been put into operation to provide agricultural technical oversight.

Poultry and cattle farms in al-Mukhtariyah and work is now under way to complete the poultry and dairy project in Hasya' which is near completion and is expected to go into production by the end of this year.

Agricultural establishments specialized in fodder, poultry, fish, breeding and agricultural automation. Regional centers have been established in various districts to provide agricultural production supplies.

A large number of surface dams to provide water for farming and animal wealth.

Agricultural medicine marketing centers set up by the Farmers' Federation and the Union of Engineers and medicine control by the appropriate authorities.

Veterinary health care centers and artificial insemination center. Work is now under way to complete the local cattle upgrading project that includes 30 villages.

A lamb and camel breeding station in Qasar-al-Halabat in Palmira and a pastoral seed production center in the two villages.

Reclamation of vast areas in the green belt project in villages and districts of al-Makhram, al-Qasir and al-Markaz and planting them with fruit trees.

Mountain terraces in the districts and a fruit tree development project in al-Wa'r villages.

In conclusion, the 8 March revolution is still offering help and services and is proceeding with the implementation of its plans and the establishment of services and economic projects in support of our country's march toward development. All of us, regardless of duties and responsibilities, are asked to personify the March course, the revolution's ideology and the guidelines of the leading party and its secretary general, comrade Hafiz al-Asad, for building a modern Syria and a progressive socialist society.

12502

TUNISIA

Government To Sell Tourism Companies to Private Sector

45000057 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
25 Mar 88 p 37

[Text] The economic path of the new Tunisian system, headed by Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, has started to show more clarity. The latest step taken by the government was the issuance of new investment codes for the purpose of attracting Arab investment to Tunisia in various areas, especially in the industrial and agricultural sectors. They are also concerned with clearing the way for increased activity from the private sector to participate in the stimulation of the economic situation. In this vein, it has been decided that the government will soon announce the sale of 300 companies specializing in tourism to the private sector within the framework of a government plan to withdraw from some sectors and to restore the laws concerning freedom to transfer capital and profits.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Discussions To Strengthen Trade Ties With India

44040148a Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Al-Shariqah—Al-Shaykh Muhammad bin-Salim al-Qasimi, the chairman of the al-Shariqah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, yesterday received J. N. Mahajan, the Indian General Consul, who was accompanied by the chairman and director of the Indian Center for Investment in Abu Dhabi. The meeting was attended by the deputy chairman of the chamber and its general director. Views were exchanged with regard to investment programs and the means to develop them. Shaikh Muhammad al-Qasimi explained the development plan in al-Shariqah in the light of the directives of His

Excellency, the ruler, to support economic programs in general and to provide the means for their success. He also explained the role of the chamber in encouraging economic development, and in providing the necessary information to establish investment programs.

The Indian general consul then spoke about investment opportunities in India, the low cost of manpower, the availability of materials, and the development of trade relations between India and the UAE.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the general consul invited the chairman and members of the administrative council of the al-Shariqah chamber to visit India, and the invitation was accepted by Shaykh Muhammad al-Qasimi, provided that the time for such a visit be determined at a subsequent time.

13286

Expansion of Dubayy Port Facilities

44040148b Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Dubayy - The expansion and development of a container] station at the Rashid Port is presently being undertaken in preparation for the expected increase in the number of container ships which will call at the port during 1988.

Within the framework of the expansion and development programs, it was decided to reorganize the computer programs which manage the station, supply the memory capacity required by a high-volume information system, and prepare for utilizing a computer in financial and administrative operations, including operations pertaining to salaries and employee affairs. The computer will also run a !! program on regulations governing the handling of goods] which is expected to be completely developed by next August. The port has also decided to purchase a new Prime computer system to serve the needs of the port through to 1990.

Rashid port continually participates in world marine exhibitions and conferences out of its desire for Dubayy and its different facilities to be represented in international associations. In this framework, Rashid port participated in the Singapore] marine exhibition held in January. The port also participated in the [Axim Expo] for ports, which was held in New Delhi in February.

The port's delegation, headed by 'Abdallah Khamis Harib, the chairman of the general relations department, illustrated the steady growth in the movement of air-sea cargo between Asia and Europe via Dubayy.

13286

INDIA

Paper Reports New Manipur Cabinet Appointments

46001373 *Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English*
10 Mar 88 p 4

[Text] Imphal, 9 March (PTI): The Manipur Governor, Gen. K.V. Krishna Rao (retd), has allocated portfolios to the new ministers with the chief minister, Mr R.K. Jaichandra Singh, retaining general administration, power, vigilance, forests, food and civil supplies.

A government notification yesterday said the chief minister would also be in charge of rural development, public health engineering, youth affairs and sports, besides portfolios yet to be distributed.

Mr Irengbam Tompok Singh: Home revenue, transport, law, fisheries. Mr Laishom Lalit Singh: Finance, industries, geology and mining. Mr Sosho Larho: PWD, tribal development, medical and family welfare, economy and statistics. Mr Moirangthem Ibotombi Singh: Irrigation and flood control, minor irrigation and labour development. Mr Yumkham Erabot: Education, arts and culture, social welfare. Muhamuddin Shah: Agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry.

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Papers Report Developments in Punjab Situation

Aim Behind Assembly Dissolution

46001372 *Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English*
7 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 6 March. The Punjab assembly, kept under suspended animation since 11 May last, was dissolved by a presidential order issued today.

A meeting of the Union cabinet and the cabinet committee on political affairs discussed the Punjab situation in the light of the report submitted by the Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, to the Prime Minister, and endorsed the recommendation to dissolve the assembly.

The move is apparently aimed at trying out a political dialogue that would involve the militants' participation and eventually lead to fresh elections during the course of this year.

The Congress assessment is that it could well carry the day in the battle of the hustings. The assessment is primarily based on the success it claims it achieved in its mass-contact programme held throughout the state, and on the division of votes that may take place if the militants enter the poll fray as rivals to the Akali nominees.

But one important aspect has probably been forgotten in the euphoria over the release of the five high priests and 40 detenus from the Jodhpur jail. The government's earlier stand was that unless the militants promised to work within the constitutional framework and abjured violence, no new initiative would be taken or political dialogue started.

There has been no clarification from official sources on this issue and no one knows whether any such assurance was seriously sought or given. The point is that the move does not tally with the government's repeated statements that it would not enter into any deal with divisive forces.

Already, reports of the manner in which the five high priests were received in the precincts of the Golden Temple, where they were taken in a special plane after their release from Tihar jail in Delhi, have caused eyebrows to be raised.

Amidst pro-Khalistan and pro-Bhindranwale slogans, the militants, led by Bhai Nirver Singh of Damdama Sahib, fired shots in the air from automatic weapons, including AK-47 Chinese assault rifles. The high priests have spoken out in favour of "pooran azadi" (complete freedom) as the goal of the Sikhs and said it was for the government to decide whether "this is possible within the country or outside."

Some might dismiss this as the initial response of "frustrated souls," as a Congress MP put it. But the opinion is that his mood needs to be changed dramatically if the militants are to be persuaded to enter the poll fray and test their popularity with the people of Punjab. It is expected that the announcement of the dissolution of the assembly and the opening up of "democratic avenues" for all sections, including the militants, might contribute to a change of mood.

The dissolution of the assembly is bound to reduce the capacity of the MLAs to interfere in the day-to-day administration of the state. Some of them were allegedly giving protection and encouragement to extremists and terrorists. Many MLAs would visit police stations and try to exert pressure on the officers to release or put in the lock-up certain elements. In some cases, their intervention prevented harassment to innocent people. In others, it meant allowing anti-social elements to be freed. The governor, Mr Ray, spoke about this aspect to newsmen on Friday when he visited the village where the horrendous massacre of 34 persons was committed.

Letter From CPI Leader

46001372 *New Delhi PATRIOT in English*
10 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Amritsar, 9 March (IPA)—In an open letter to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, veteran CPI leader Satyapal Dang has cautioned the Government against the policy of appeasing the extremists to buy peace in Punjab, which has proved disastrous in the past.

He is of the view that a section of the extremists opting for a compromise may be doing so to gain time to further consolidate and expand their network inside the Government and even in the security forces.

He wants the Government to beware of such a trap and also to take political initiatives to solve problems on the basis of justice and fairness, keeping national interests in view, side-by-side with effective action against the killer gangs.

Following is the text of the letter dated 4 March:

Killings of 34 innocent persons and injuring an equally big number by a group of terrorists in one single operation in Hoshiarpur district has compelled me to write this open letter to you.

Like any other human being with a conscience I am greatly shocked by this most gruesome massacre. And also I am much perturbed, aggrieved and angry at the endless killings of innocent persons and wiping out of entire families.

Like any other patriotic Indian, I am much concerned at the serious threat to the unity and integrity of our great country.

As a Punjabi, I consider it my particular duty to contribute my maximum towards meeting and defeating this threat insofar as this threat comes from some forces within Punjab—even though these are guided, aided and abetted by imperialism and its allies.

As a Communist and a revolutionary, I firmly believe that any success of these forces and any set-back to the unity and integrity of India will at the same time be a setback for the Indian revolution and for the world revolutionary process.

I, therefore, wish to do all I can to defeat the forces of terrorism, separatism and communalism of all hues as well as to preserve and strengthen the unity of India. Of course, it can be preserved and strengthened only as unity-in-diversity. And that requires more powers for the State so that we have a strong Centre as well as strong States.

I have no doubt that you and your Government too want India to remain united.

The real question is what is the correct way to keep India united.

I believe that this must be done by having faith in and relying upon common patriotic and toiling Sikh masses. Together with strong administrative action, including strong action by the security forces, there must be (a) such political initiatives as will help to isolate the terrorists and to move forward to a political solution of what has come to be known as the Punjab problem; (b) mass

campaigning at the grassroots level against terrorism, separatism, communalism, against misuse of religious places; for separation of religion and politics; etc.

These three tasks are equally important. They can and must be carried out simultaneously. I would like to add only one thing. Strong action by the security forces should not rule out civil authorities in Punjab taking the help of the Army to the extent and in the manner considered necessary to prevent killings of innocent persons.

The release of 40 out of the Jodhpur detenus, on being found to be innocent, is welcome. If there are any more innocent ones there, they too should be released. As you know, we have been demanding this for long.

The release of the priests installed by the extremists and known to be firm supporters of the terrorists is however an altogether different matter. This reveals the possibility of an altogether different matter. This reveals the possibility of an altogether different line being pursued instead of the strategy described above.

The policy of appeasing the extremists and attempting to buy peace by striking a deal with them or with a section of them has been followed earlier too. It produced disastrous results. Also, the result of the release of Mr Parkash Singh Badal is there for all to see. What ground is there to believe that the release of these priests too will not prove counter-productive? The apprehension that they may bring even more grist to the mill of the terrorists than Mr Badal cannot be dismissed lightly. I will be too happy if this fear proves wrong.

Please permit me to point out two other important aspects of the situation.

Even if the priests now formally condemn terrorism and killings of innocent persons, there is no guarantee that all the terrorist organisations will act accordingly and stop killings, extortions, etc.

Secondly, it is not a secret that amongst the extremists and terrorists there are two views. One is for "Khalistan" here and now. The other does not consider this to be a practical proposition just now. Those who hold the latter view want some sort of compromise to gain time to be used by them to strengthen their existing cells and create more in the Government machinery including the security forces. They need this time all the more in view of the fact that they have started losing support even in areas in which they were able to build some support and win some sympathy.

I hope your Government does not fall in any such trap. I know the Indian state is strong enough and if the worst comes to the worst it will guarantee India's unity by handing over Punjab to the Army for a long time. In my opinion, only those who look upon India as a market and not as the motherland can think in these terms. If unity

of India is to be based upon real and genuine unity of her people—notwithstanding their different languages, religions, etc.—the strategy described above must be followed. There must be no appeasement of the terrorists and of separatist forces and even of forces which stand for theocracy. At the same time, what is demanded by the needs of justice must be done unconditionally. For instance, those who organised the anti-Sikh riots of November 1984 must be punished.

Such political initiatives as will help resolve the territorial and water disputes without doing gross injustice to any of the concerned States and in the spirit of give and take, keeping in view the overall national interests, must be taken together with strong and effective action against the killer gangs.

In the end, please let me express the hope that the above views of mine will receive the consideration which any citizen of a democratic country is entitled to.

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Achievements of Defense Research Laboratories

Metallurgical Research

46001362 Calcutta *THE STATESMAN* in English
21 Mar 88 p 12

[Text] Hyderabad, March 20—A low-weight steel armour plating—code named Jackal—developed by the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory here had been approved for use in the production of Infantry Combat Vehicles. These vehicles, being manufactured at Medak with Soviet collaboration, are expected to start switching over to Jackal armour once full-scale production is achieved.

The acceptance of the Jackal armour is yet another indication of the success that the laboratory has achieved. Earlier its heavier, composite, Kanchan armour was approved for use in the Main Battle Tank under development, and in the programme under which the Vijayanta tanks are being modernized and upgraded.

Set up 25 years ago, the DMRL had initially concentrated its efforts on the basic science of advanced metallurgy, building the base upon which it set about its major task of providing indigenous manufacturers with the specialized metals required and establishing the technologies which would be necessary to produce materials of the future.

One of the first achievements of the DMRL which was accepted for production was brake-pads for the MIG aircraft. That development contributed substantially to more efficient maintenance of the aircraft.

Today the DMRL can reel off a string of its “developments”—transmission clutch discs for naval ships, a non-magnetic steel that is being used for re-fitting mine-sweepers, even steel plates for the pressure hulls of the submarines.

The work of the scientists does not end at the laboratory. They look around the country for agencies capable of mass producing the fruits of their research, supervise production in the initial stages, and, if necessary, continue the process by working with the “users.”

An example of the last stage can be had from the modernization programme of the Vijayanta tank. Adding on armour is not as easy as it may sound. The scientists worked on an old tank, after a series of trials, recommended welding on the additional plates rather than using bolts.

More armour means more weight. Care had to be taken to ensure that the performance of the tank, the movement of the turret, the elevation of the gun and so on were not impaired. It took time, but the results are satisfying.

The DMRL is involved in some production these days. Having developed tungsten and steel-based projectiles for anti-tank ammunition for all varieties of tanks in use, it has been entrusted with their manufacture till a full-scale production facility at Trichy comes on stream.

Over the years a number of laboratories have been set up at the DMRL where scientists work on structures of metals, powder metal technology, superconductivity, magnets, rious processes.

A project which evokes some excitement is the work being done on turbine blades for the GTX-35 gas turbine being developed at Bangalore. The blades are made using the “investment casting or lost wax process.” Inside each blade are minute channels through which a coolant air will flow.

Although investment casting is considered a modern process, scientists will tell you that a more rudimentary version was widely used in this country hundreds of years ago. It was “re-discovered” in the West recently.

The DMRL has done some pioneering work in setting up a titanium plant of industrial scale. The sands of the Kerala coast are abundant with the ore, but lack of technology meant that the country made little use of its potential to produce this important engineering metal. The scientists hope that commercial units will now take over.

Titanium Capability

46001362 Calcutta *THE TELEGRAPH* in English
21 Mar 88 p 5

[Article by S. Srinivasan]

[Text] Hyderabad, March 20—The Defence Research Laboratory which has many breakthroughs to its credit has notched up yet another milestone by developing the capability to extract titanium from minerals.

Titanium, the youngest [as printed] among engineering metals, is nearly half as light as steel and exhibits excellent mechanical properties at moderately elevated temperatures. Its outstanding properties has made titanium the most sought-after metal.

Titanium is a strategic metal in defence. Its temperature capability and specific strength makes it ideal for building air-frames, fasteners and rotating hubs. It can also be used as a critical rotating component in the compressor sections of Jet engines.

India, which is making an all-out effort to attain self-sufficiency in aerospace applications, has found a large market for titanium products in the aeronautical industry. Titanium has wide application for civilian needs as it is used in the chemical industry and for power generation. The corrosion and erosion resistance of titanium renders it an extremely cost-effective material for use as tubing in steam condensers and oil coolers both in thermal and nuclear power plants.

What makes the extraction of titanium an encouraging feat for India is the fact that it has rich deposits of titanium in its coastal areas. India has 20 per cent of the world titanium resource and it is for the asking in the beaches of Orissa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The quality is high-grade. India, together with Canada, Brazil, Norway, South Africa and Australia has 80 per cent of the world reserves. But ironically titanium production has been restricted to only five countries—the Soviet Union, the US, Japan, UK and China—because only these countries had the sophisticated technical know-how needed to extract the metal.

By achieving extraction capability India has joined the select band of titanium producing nations but the right technology for titanium's industrial use is yet to be developed. At present units are restricted to processing and beneficiation of the metal for export and production of pigment titanium oxide for the paint industry.

Although Midhani in Hyderabad has facilities to produce a wide range of mill products in titanium and titanium alloys, its operations are dependent on imported primary metal. The Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) in Hyderabad has bridged this gap by setting up an industrial-scale demonstration

plant for producing titanium sponge from titanium tetrachloride. The titanium spongol produced in Hyderabad meets international specifications for high purity grade. Extracting titanium from its minerals is difficult because of its extreme chemical reactivity. The common process for its extraction is reduction of purztitanium tetrachloride with liquid magnesium under an inert gas cover followed by vacuum distillation to separate the byproduct magnesium chloride and excess magnesium. Extraction is also done by sodium reduction methods.

The scientists at Hyderabad are currently studying the internal structure of titanium and its alloys. The DMRL has already developed technology for producing a titanium alloy to be used in the MiG aircraft as an import substitution for a Soviet titanium alloy. The technology needed to produce the alloy has been transferred to Midhani.

Pune Laboratories

46001362 Madras *THE HINDU* in English
5 Mar 88 p 10

[Text] Pune, March 4—Nestled in the peaceful suburbs of this beautiful city, four defence research organisations are busy providing the Indian soldier a technological edge over the enemy because in modern warfare brains are as important for victory as brawn.

The Explosives Research and Development Laboratory (ERDL) has only one motto—maximise damage. Scientists here are busy making a variety of non-nuclear explosives and devices, including the FAE system. A multi-rocket launcher spreads an aerosol cloud of a liquid explosive over the target which when ignited causes widespread destruction through powerful pressure waves.

The ERDL has also developed a high-energy propellant protective liner and semi-combustible cartridge cases for India's Main Battle Tank—Arjun. Thanks to the protective liner, the Arjun gun barrel can fire more than 400 rounds. Without this protective liner it would wear out after only 125 rounds.

Special fuel for missile targets, pilotless target aircraft and remotely piloted vehicles is another technological breakthrough achieved by ERDL. The main characteristic of this fuel is that it burns slowly enough to allow the gunner to aim his weapon and shoot down the target. The sustainer propellant and polymeric inhibition system developed by ERDL has a "very long burning duration of 180 seconds."

From lab to factory: The ERDL is especially proud of its lab-to-factory programme. Under this project, it has set up various pilot plants for different products for smooth transfer of technology developed by it to ordnance factories. Keeping in view the requirements of the Indian Navy it has set up a small plant to manufacture a special compound which purifies air by absorbing toxic carbon

dioxide and releasing oxygen. At present it manufactures five tonnes of the compound a year which is being used by Indian submarines during long periods of stay under water.

For the first time in India, it has not only developed the process to make the latest explosive, beta HMX, but also established a plant to make it. With a production capacity of 5 kg an hour, the pilot plant is meeting all the demands of research and development of various warheads.

The laboratory has also developed special types of explosives and inflammable materials for non-military use. It is therefore not surprising that the country has not imported any explosive in the past 25 years and has, in fact, thanks to ERDL saved foreign exchange worth more than Rs. 100 crores.

Set up under the guidance of Professor P.M.S. Blackett, Nobel laureate, the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) is primarily concerned with designing conventional arms for the Services. One of its earliest ventures was the 7.62 mm Ishapore self-loading rifle and its ammunition which replaced the 0.303 Lee-Enfield bolt action rifle.

Since then it has developed many weapons and bombs, including the 5.56 mm small arms system. The key feature of this system is that by changing only a few parts (20 per cent), the weapon can be converted into a rifle, a light machine gun or a carbine with all the three firing the same ammunition. Besides, the weapon has a recoil of only four joules compared to 15 joules of the Ishapore rifle. Billed as the weapon of the future, the system has already undergone field trials and is likely to be commissioned by the Army soon.

The ARDE has developed a special type of gun for the Main Battle Tank with high performance capabilities. Its fire power is comparable to that of the MBTs developed by advanced nations including Britain, West Germany, France and the Soviet Union. The ARDE scientists are proud of having joined this select club as even the U.S. and Japan have opted to produce under licence the German gun.

The Establishment is also developing an improved version of the cluster bomb. Being designed for the current and futuristic combat aircraft, the 454 kg bomb will impose much less drag on the jet, thereby increasing its radius of action.

Training the men: It is but natural for the Services which use these highly sophisticated arms and equipment to have officers and men who keep abreast of the latest advances in science and technology in relation to their

field. This responsibility has been entrusted to the Institute of Armament Technology (IAT) and many of its students have secured top positions in examinations conducted in association with Pune University to which the IAT is affiliated.

The institute has its own computer centre which helps students and officers of the three Services to conduct research and complete their studies. It offers courses in many subjects including armaments, ammunition, combat vehicles, marine engineering and electronics, air-launched weapons, warheads and fuzes, guided missiles and simulation on computers.

Interestingly, the institute has developed several devices and technologies for the Services some of which are simplicity itself—a mark of the total and clear understanding of the sophisticated armament technology inducted into the region.

The Research and Development Establishment (Engineers) provides to the three Services military hardware and engineering support systems for mainly high technology weapons and equipment. Since obstacles to the advancing army, such as rivers and mountains in the Indian subcontinent are different from those in other parts of the world, the bridging methods used by the armies of Western nations cannot be used in India. The R&DE (Engrs) has therefore developed a bridge layer tank which can lay a bridge within a short time. The bridge can be used by all types of vehicles including tanks.

The bridge owes its development to the breakthrough in making large structures and aluminium alloys. With the help of industry, the Establishment has been able to develop two alloys, RDE-32 and RDE-40, which are as strong as steel and can be welded with ease. This technology is likely to find widespread use in many non-military fields.

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NEPAL

Diplomatic Corp Termed Disgraceful
46000121b Kathmandu *THE RISING NEPAL*
(Supplement) in English 18 Mar 88 p 5

[Article by Kumar Bahadur Bhatta]

[Excerpts] The recent alleged shop-lifting incident by an Ambassador in Washington is most disgraceful and it has lowered the reputation and image of the Nepalese both in and out of Nepal. It would have been a trifle matter if the issue affected only the service of the person concerned, but it has gone very far. It has adversely affected the whole nation and the other diplomats in

current assignments. The impact of the unpleasant incident, which seems to be unpardonable, demands a thorough investigation and giving a second thought before assigning a diplomat abroad.

Memories: During the period of the scribe's experience and service of about four decades with some embassies, both Nepali and foreign, he has some bitter memories imprinted in his mind relating to some ambassadors and other diplomats, who miserably failed in the performance of their duties. They were consequently subjected to recall and unceremonious removal from their positions.

Purpose: Diplomats should bear in their minds that they are sent abroad mainly (a) to maintain friendly relationship, (b) to look after the interests of the Nepalese staying there, (c) to represent Nepal in international matters, (d) to publicise about Nepalese history, culture and tourism, (e) promote trade and industry, (f) to make efforts towards getting foreign aid, loan, scholarship, technical know-how, (g) to expand recognition of the proposal for the Zone of Peace and (h) to work for providing the basic necessities of life under the Asian standard within 13 years.

Unfortunately, the diplomats at times are found engaging themselves in various nefarious activities. The diplomatic post is certainly not a bed of roses, nor should it be abused for making fortune and serving their personal interests.

08309

Tragedy Blamed on Poor Management
46000121a Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 14 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] As the death toll rises in the tragic Saturday football stampede at Dashrath stadium, the people are bound to ask whether disaster could have been avoided with better crisis management. The answer is yes. If not in crowd control—given obvious manpower limitations—the least that could have been done was open wide available gates. And it is precisely this that contributed most to the deaths.

But postmortem of this sort notwithstanding, fault-finding will not undo what has been done. The government has been prompt to put their services into use. And some compensation has been provided families of the unfortunate victims, however inadequate it may seem to cover the loss. The official inquiry commission has been set up immediately. And our hospitals despite their limited resources have tried to cope with the sudden emergency.

It is ironic that we set up an unfortunate record in sports. But accidents happen. Moreover, the unfortunate incident would not have happened had the mob behaved rationally in reaction to the sudden hailstorm. But mobs are mobs and a panicking mob wrecks most damage on itself. And that is what happened. The football authorities must share the blame for not anticipating such crowd behaviour. Policing was inadequate and, again, the gates did not open on time. But accidents are accidents and the sad accident on Saturday will be better taken if habitual resort to fault finding is shirked in favour of sympathetic care for the victims.

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